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BELARUS

白罗斯



**MORE THAN
NEIGHBORING
COUNTRIES**

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THE COMMONWEALTH MAKES EVERYONE STRONGER



A meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS Member States was held in Moscow, attended by the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko

The Presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of Armenia also came to the summit in Moscow. The leaders of the Commonwealth countries first exchanged views on cooperation within the CIS in a narrow format, then continued their communication in an expanded format. In his speech, the President of Belarus put forward a number of proposals to strengthen regional integration, which is especially relevant in the context of the deepest crisis in international relations. The President of Belarus called the mechanism of cooperation within the CIS the most important tool for strengthening the political and economic power of the Commonwealth states and the region as a whole. After all, the Commonwealth includes states with the greatest potential and the resources that the planet really needs today. As Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, these countries stand on the shoulders of several generations who managed to create a powerful state from scratch, which became one of the geopolitical centres of power. According to the President of Belarus, there are no analogues of the Soviet experience of nation building in history. And there is nothing surprising in the fact, he believes, that a new association of now sovereign states is undesirable in the current geopolitical configuration. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this means “that we need to value what we have. All those who have not broken away from our Commonwealth are showing decent results today, have not lost control of their country, and remain full-fledged subjects of international relations. It would be very good if Georgia returned to our family, Moldova resumed its full-fledged participation, and the authorities of Ukraine, in whose restoration of normal life we will have to participate, came to their senses. I am absolutely sure that this will happen. It is simply a matter of time. The common goal is clear.”

The CIS voice must be louder

Common risks, challenges and threats require more effective use of the potential of regional integration. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the Commonwealth should be constantly present in the global information agenda, “We are united in our assessment of many events that affect the development of not only the region, but also humanity as a whole. We talk about this at different venues, but, unfortunately, often separately.

We need to unite our voices into one more often — the voice of the CIS. This voice must sound at full power and lead to specific actions. Especially today.”

The Head of State noted that everyone is witnessing the deepest crisis in international relations. Therefore, it is important to jointly oppose illegal unilateral economic restrictions. Today, they concern not only Belarus and Russia. Aleksandr Lukashenko is confident that virtually all Commonwealth countries are under the threat of secondary sanctions.

A crucial point is achieving technological sovereignty in the CIS. The President of Belarus does not hide the fact that this task is complex and ambitious. He is convinced that the economy is the basis of everything. Therefore, technological sovereignty today is the number one issue for the normal functioning of the CIS economy, “Western copyright holders of the latest technical solutions refuse to share their achievements, do not guarantee the support and maintenance of equipment and machinery that has already been legally purchased. This also applies to healthcare, which is monstrous. Therefore, it is vital for us to introduce our inventions and developments into production, we need our own component base.”

The Head of State notes that the Commonwealth members have something to rely on, “It is no secret that today’s optimistic economic indicators of the CIS countries are the result of the ties we have maintained in all areas.”



An equally important point: the promotion and cultivation of the Commonwealth’s value system. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this is about historically established values, and not imposed or far-fetched European or American ones. This is what remains when new generations come to replace them.

The Head of the Belarusian State noted that the CIS was created by politicians who know the value of the unity of nations. But in the foreseeable future, a generation will come into politics that understands the importance of national sovereignty and independence. Whether they will be able to preserve the accumulated experience of union building depends on the work today, including with the youth.

And here, Aleksandr Lukashenko believes, it is not enough to talk, write books, make films. It is necessary to maintain the level of simple human communication. For example, the revival of international youth construction projects within the Commonwealth meets this task.



Remembering is a sacred duty

One of the items on the agenda at the CIS summit in Moscow was the adoption of the Address to the Peoples of the Commonwealth and the World Community in connection with the 80th Anniversary of the Victory of the Soviet People in the Great Patriotic War of 1941—1945. The document was presented by the President of Belarus, and there is a simple explanation for this. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted on this occasion, “Our country has been given this right by history itself — the history of the Soviet Republic, the first to take the blow of the Wehrmacht divisions, the first to stop their victorious march across Europe. This right was given to us by the heroes who stood to the death in the Brest Fortress, as well as on the approaches to all Belarusian cities, blocking the way to Moscow. Representatives of 70 nationalities fought shoulder to shoulder with the Belarusians. And everyone knew that they were confronting absolute global evil.” Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that today the names of many soldiers are immortalised in the names of avenues and streets of Belarusian cities, in monuments and memorials. Among them is Marshal of Victory Georgy Zhukov. And also Heroes of the Soviet Union: Azerbaijani Rafiyev, Armenian Avakyan, Kazakh Iskaliyev, Kyrgyz Asanaliyev, Tajik Azizov, Turkmen Annayev, Uzbek

Yakubov and many others. “We remember our heroes. But we also remember the pain, grief, suffering of millions of our compatriots,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “Every 30 seconds the bell of Khatyn reminds us that over 600 Belarusian villages were burned along with women, children and old people. No matter how many years have passed, we still hear the echo of the silent cry for help from the exhausted residents of besieged Leningrad, the cries of millions of Soviet mothers and children whose sons, daughters and fathers did not return from the battlefields.” According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, the number of victims of that war is horrifying:

“What is even more terrifying is that it is not final. On the territory of Belarus, we continue to find mass graves of hundreds and thousands of tortured and executed people. The same work is being done in other CIS countries.”

Meanwhile, the President of Belarus noted, in some countries of liberated Europe, SS legionnaires are being honoured, “Neo-Nazis openly march through the streets, tear down and desecrate monuments to the soldiers-liberators. The youth participating in this, brought up in the spirit of national superiority and revanchism, have no idea about the course of history. They do not know that their ancestors fought together with the Soviet people: the same Balts, Poles, Belgians and even Germans. They were

forced to forget that they owe the fact of their birth to the Soviet soldiers who paid with their lives for peace on their land, for the freedom of their countries, for the future of their peoples. Memory can be stolen, but the truth cannot be stolen: without the heroism of the Soviet people, there would not be those states and people who do everything to discredit the feat of the Soviet people and take away our Great Victory. We know why. The historical rightness of our peoples is an obstacle to the implementation of the long-term geopolitical plans of the West, in which there is no place for other strong powers.”

The President emphasised that in response to these actions, provisions on the protection of historical truth and memory of the feat of the Soviet people during the Great Patriotic War were introduced into the Constitution of Belarus. Laws were adopted to prevent the rehabilitation of Nazism and the genocide of the Belarusian people.

Incidentally, in Moscow, at the request of reporters, the President commented on the changes recently made to the nuclear doctrine of Russia. When asked what he felt in connection with the changes in the document, which also concern the territory of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko said, “I don’t feel it now. Because I already felt it at the time when the most serious weapons returned to the territory of Belarus. That’s when I felt it. And now this is actually a strengthening of the position that we have felt in Belarus for a long time.”

Another question from a Russian journalist whether new risks emerged for the country in this regard. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted, “The world is changing rapidly now, and certain risks are constantly appearing or disappearing. New risks have emerged for someone, that’s for sure. But not for us.”

Speaking about the decision-making algorithm if it is necessary to use nuclear weapons, the Head of State noted, “Never in its life would any country use them independently without consulting with its allies. Because rattling these weapons is a serious matter. But if suddenly we had to, then, naturally, we would not just consult, we would very seriously negotiate with the President of Russia on the use of these weapons.”

The journalist asked where the red line is for the President of Belarus in this case. Aleksandr Lukashenko once again emphasised, “The state border. We have already said this clearly and definitely. If someone crosses our state border, we will do everything to use all the weapons that are in Belarus.”

The President was asked how he feels about the fact that some hotheads in Ukraine are calling for a military invasion of Belarus. Aleksandr Lukashenko replied, “Well, let them try. We are waiting for them. But I must tell you that if someone, as I say, is yapping, then these are people who absolutely do not make any decisions. This is just ordinary yapping. And none of the serious people, even at the level of President Zelensky, thinks about entering Belarus. This is a very serious headache that will lead to



the collapse of the Kyiv authorities in military terms. This is just yapping by people who are not responsible for anything. They can say whatever they want. We are absolutely calm in this regard.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that the Belarusian side does not hide the fact that it maintains certain contacts with the Ukrainian authorities, “Even if they are minimal, we still maintain contacts at the humanitarian level through the channels that help us and Russians exchange prisoners of war. We are working together with the Russians here. Therefore, from any side, from any position, to get into Belarus in this way means one and a half thousand kilometres of the border, the Ukrainians definitely do not need this.”

If we talk about the results of the summit, it is worth noting that the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS Member States also considered the issue of the activities of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Member States to strengthen integration cooperation. The summit participants approved amendments to a number of documents concerning cooperation in the legal field, as well as in the field of security. In particular, the Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Deradicalization for 2025—2027 was approved.

The cultural capitals of the Commonwealth for the next three years have also been determined. It is planned that in 2027, this status will be given to the Belarusian Molodechno, and in 2025 and 2026, these will be the Azerbaijani Lachin and the Armenian Meghri.

In addition, a decision was made to establish an honorary title of the CIS — ‘City of Labour Glory. 1941 — 1945’. From January 1st, 2025, the chairmanship of the Commonwealth will pass to Tajikistan. And the next meeting of the Council of Heads of State will be held in October next year in Dushanbe.

Aleksey Fedosov
photo by Belta

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNION STATE



MORE THAN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES



Russian and Belarusian Presidents Vladimir Putin and Aleksandr Lukashenko held a separate bilateral meeting in Moscow. Looking ahead, we will say that Vladimir Putin presented Aleksandr Lukashenko with the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called in the Kremlin for outstanding achievements in developing allied relations.

This was the eighth meeting of the presidents of the two countries since the beginning of the year. At it, the leaders of Belarus and Russia discussed economic and political issues within the Union State. In general, cooperation between the two countries is showing good dynamics; the volume of Russian-Belarusian trade, according to Russian data, amounted to 46.5 billion dollars. Russia ranks first in terms of direct investment in the Belarusian economy. Currently, this figure is 4.5 billion dollars. “We continue to develop our interaction in the field of industrial cooperation, we work together in the field of agriculture. In the last year and a half, we have been actively engaged in microelectronics, and now opportunities are opening up in the aviation industry,” emphasised Vladimir Putin.

“Russia needs the goods that we produce — from agriculture to microelectronics,” Aleksandr Lukashenko agreed,



specifying that the countries will continue to complement each other and move together in these and other areas.

The final and very solemn chord of Aleksandr Lukashenko's visit to Moscow was the ceremony of awarding the President of Belarus, Chairman of the Supreme State Council of the Union State, with the highest state award of the Russian Federation — the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called. Vladimir Putin presented the award to his Belarusian colleague. It is symbolic that this event took place in the St. Andrew's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace. The President of the Russian Federation explained that, according to the statute of this order, it is awarded to prominent Russian statesmen and foreign leaders for exceptional merits in strengthening ties with Russia, "And you, dear Aleksandr Grigorievich, are certainly worthy of this highest award. Awarding you the Order of St. Andrew the First-Called reflects Russia's gratitude for your outstanding contribution to the development of Russian-Belarusian relations of alliance and strategic partnership." According to Vladimir Putin, these relations are based on the unshakable principles of friendship and good

neighbourliness, mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests, "And, of course, a common history, common moral and spiritual values, strong family and kinship ties between many Russians and Belarusians. It is on such a solid foundation that Russia and Belarus are building the Union State, within the framework of which common defence and security are reliably ensured, a single economic, legal and humanitarian space has been created." Vladimir Putin drew attention to the fact that Aleksandr Lukashenko stood at the origins of the creation of the Union State and makes a significant contribution to its strengthening and development, "We know you as a consistent and convinced supporter of maintaining and expanding close ties throughout the CIS. With your active participation, mutually beneficial cooperation is developing within the Eurasian Economic Union, the CSTO. And now, since Belarus became a member of the SCO, this also applies to this organisation. I sincerely value our good personal relations that we have developed over many years of working together. I am confident that through joint efforts we will continue to develop Russian-Belarusian



cooperation, we will continue to strengthen mutually beneficial economic interaction, and reliably protect the security of the two countries and our Union State.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko sincerely thanked his Russian colleague for the high award, “I consider it as recognition of the merits of the entire Belarusian people, who consistently strengthen their unity with our brotherly Russia. For our country, Russia has always been and will be more than a neighbouring state. We have the same historical roots, the same traditions and values, which are intertwined with an infinite number of ordinary human relations. And in general, we — Belarusians, Ukrainians, Russians — grow from the same root. Our main achievement is that we have preserved our foundation. And today it underlies the enormous potential of our cooperation.”

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, in recent years, the countries have managed to significantly strengthen the economic, cultural and spiritual ties that our ancestors have been establishing for centuries, “Our unique integration association — the Union State — is successfully developing. Today, we are fighting together for a just world. And the Union of Belarus and Russia is at the forefront of this fierce and very serious struggle. There is no alternative to such a course in the conditions of the tense, escalating international situation. At the same time, the Union State may well be a model of new equal relations.”

Belarus is a reliable ally

Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that Belarus has been faced with a choice many times, “But we have never — I emphasise, never — turned away from Russia. You and your colleagues know this well. Belarus is a reliable ally. I want

Russia to know this first of all. Belarusians have never let Russians down. Please accept my assurances: they will never let you down in the future. It has been decided from above that we share both successes and difficulties in a brotherly manner. As the President elected by the Belarusian people, I will always stand guard over our common interests, centuries-old good neighbourliness and friendship. The more than three-hundred-year history of the order awarded to me, the dedication of many generations of ancestors who built and defended our Motherland, oblige me to strengthen our Union and our unity with all my might.”

History of the Order

The Order of St. Andrew the First-Called is the highest state order of the Russian Federation, the first order and the highest award in the Russian Empire. It was established at the end of the 17th century by Peter the Great in honour of the Apostle Andrew the First-Called. In total, more than 1,000 people received the award before 1917. After the October Revolution, the order, like all other awards of the Russian Empire, was abolished. But in 1998, by decree of the President of Russia, it was restored as the highest state award. Since 1998, a total of 26 people have been awarded the order. Among them are President of the People’s Republic of China Xi Jinping, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, former leaders of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan Heydar Aliyev and Nursultan Nazarbayev, Patriarch of Moscow and All Rus’ Alexy the Second.

For faith and loyalty

The Order of St. Andrew the First-Called has a badge, a star, an order chain and an order ribbon. The badge of the order is made in the form of an oblique cross made of silver with gilding, covered with blue enamel, with an image of the crucified St. Andrew the First-Called. The cross is superimposed on a relief gilded figure of a double-headed eagle, crowned with three crowns, connected by a ribbon covered with blue enamel. The star of the order is silver, eight-pointed. In its centre, in a round medallion covered with red enamel, is a gilded image of a double-headed eagle crowned with three crowns, on the eagle’s chest is an image of St. Andrew’s Cross covered with blue enamel. The medallion is surrounded by a border covered with blue enamel with a gilded edging. On the border, in straight gilded letters, is written the motto of the order — ‘For Faith and Loyalty’. The chain of the order consists of 17 alternating links of three types: a gilded image of the State Emblem of the Russian Federation, a cartouche with the monogram of Peter the Great, a medallion with the St. Andrew’s Cross. The links of the chain are connected by rings, the chain is made of silver with gilding using hot enamels.

Vladimir Velikhov
photo by Belta

MUTUAL DESIRE TO WORK ACTIVELY



Alexander Lukashenko congratulated the new heads of diplomatic missions in Belarus on their official assumption of office. The ambassadors who presented their credentials to the President represent China, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Algeria, Mauritania, Burundi, Kuwait, Uruguay and the Dominican Republic.

During the ceremony of awarding diplomas, the President expressed hope that diplomats had already had the opportunity to get acquainted with Minsk, its sights, communicate with people and learn the history of the Belarusian state. "It is multifaceted, it has many heroic pages, and we are rightfully proud of it! - Alexander Lukashenko drew attention. "We are proud of the glorious exploits of our ancestors, hardworking contemporaries who continue to strengthen their beloved country and bring up a decent shift."

The right to decide your own fate

According to the head of state, the ambassadors will soon see for themselves how hospitable and peaceful Belarusians are. "Despite the increasing threats and challenges, the doors of our house always remain open," the Belarusian leader stressed. - An eloquent testimony is the visa-free regime for citizens of 35 European countries, established this summer. There are no unfriendly peoples and minor countries for us. I know that Belarusians are treated with politeness and warmth all over the world."

The President noted with regret that peaceful, prosperous and sovereign Belarus causes irritation among some Western politicians, which develops into prejudice. "They consider their one-sided outdated perception of the world order, where there are people of the first and second class, to be normal," Alexander Lukashenko stated. - And if someone does not agree with their point of view, they are suppressed by sanctions and various restrictions. Minsk has been facing such injustice for many years. Almost the entire sovereign history. However, we take the liberty to pursue an independent policy - internal and external. And we always defend our position based on international law and justice." It is no secret, the President drew attention to the fact that unfounded claims are often made against the country. For example, about the promotion of illegal migration. "I would like to remind you that Belarus, within the framework of its international obligations and capabilities, suppresses illegal migration channels and fights transnational crime," Alexander Lukashenko said. - But if certain problems related to migration are created, then these questions are not for us. These are questions for those who invited these migrants to their country. We take human care of people who have been forced to leave their countries and seek asylum in the European Union. And we do all this without anyone's help, being under the pressure of illegal sanctions."

According to the head of state, the next reason for external attacks on Belarus will obviously be the presidential election campaign. "This campaign of attacks on Belarus has already begun, you know that, — Alexander Lukashenko stated. - They have probably already started writing blanks of high-profile plans for the "overthrow of the regime" and asking for millions of dollars in grants for these useless purposes. They ask for it every five years. I will immediately upset the ideological inspirers: we will not allow the situation to be shaken and the country to enter the abyss of chaos. You will see it."

The President stressed that his citizens do not need to agitate for Belarus. "They understand that they themselves are this Belarus," Alexander Lukashenko said. - Strong, stable and independent. Only the Belarusian people have the right to decide their fate, whether someone likes it or not."

Time-tested friends and partners

Addressing the audience, the Head of state noted that there is an impressive diplomatic geography in the hall. "People who are close in spirit have gathered here, united by a common desire to create and strengthen ties for the benefit of the peoples of our countries," he stressed.

Alexander Lukashenko recalled that on October 1, when the ceremony of presentation of credentials by ambassadors of foreign states took place, the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China was celebrated. Taking the opportunity, in the person of the ambassador, the



Belarusian leader congratulated the entire Chinese people on their great national holiday. "This is our holiday, too," the President said. - It is very significant for us that you present your credentials on this day. The People's Republic of China has always been and remains an important, reliable and special trade, economic and political partner for Belarus."

According to the head of state, Minsk and Beijing have achieved an unprecedented high level of trust-based cooperation. "In the context of global political tension, we were able to bring bilateral relations to the level of an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership," he stated. "Despite the crisis processes in the global economy, last year we achieved a new record in trade turnover."

Alexander Lukashenko expressed special gratitude for the constructive approach to cooperation to his dear friend,



President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping, and asked him to convey his good wishes. The Chinese leader is expected to visit Belarus at a convenient time for him.

Kazakhstan is an important, time-tested friend, strategic partner and ally for our country. "Today there are practically no areas where we do not have common interests,— the President said. "The high dynamics of cooperation is evidenced by the annual billion-dollar trade turnover and successful projects in industrial cooperation." Alexander Lukashenko once again expressed gratitude to President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for all the support provided to our country during Kazakhstan's chairmanship in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

"There are no distances for real friendship"

According to the Head of state, we traditionally build friendly relations with the Republic of Serbia. "They are based on strong historical and spiritual ties between our fraternal peoples," the President stated. "We are interested in activating the entire range of Belarusian-Serbian cooperation and expanding contacts, developing mutually beneficial cooperation in industry, agriculture, healthcare, and other areas, including using high technologies."

Belarus is ready for active industrial cooperation, cooperation in the fields of food security and high technologies with Algeria. Alexander Lukashenko expressed confidence that Belarusian machinery (tractors, combines, trucks) and granaries will be useful for the Algerian economy. He also expressed hope for the continuation of fruitful joint work on international platforms.

It was with special pleasure that the President welcomed the Ambassador of Mauritania, the Chairman of the African Union, to the Independence Palace. This year Belarus and Mauritania celebrate the 20th anniversary of the

establishment of diplomatic relations. Alexander Lukashenko congratulated on this significant date and expressed his conviction that mutual contacts should be intensified. "There is a basis for this," he pointed out. "I propose to identify two or three flagship mutually beneficial projects where we can be useful to each other and start implementing them."

Belarus is also interested in developing friendly relations with the Republic of Burundi, and attaches particular importance to the economic component of interstate relations. With the development of agriculture and mining in Burundi, the country can offer a wide range of engineering products, including trucks, quarry construction and agricultural machinery. In addition, according to the head of state, Belarus has significant opportunities to train specialists needed to work in various sectors of the economy.

"Kuwait is an important partner for us in the Middle East region,— Alexander Lukashenko noted. - We highly appreciate your country's commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts and crises (you are seriously involved in this, as is Belarus), as well as humanitarian efforts in the international arena. This is in line with our peaceful initiatives to launch a broad international dialogue on principles and guarantees of security. I am ready to make every effort to build up trade, economic and investment partnership in all areas."

The Dominican Republic is seen as a promising partner in Central America and the Caribbean. "At the same time, we consider the economic vector to be the most important and mutually beneficial," the Belarusian leader said. - We are open to any form of cooperation. I suggest starting with the creation of an effective contractual and legal framework. I am convinced that the agreement on the mutual cancellation of visas, which is planned to be signed, will not only revive tourism, but also become an important impetus for the activation of bilateral relations."

According to the President, our country is following the development of Uruguay very closely. Alexander Lukashenko is confident that the successful holding of the upcoming presidential elections in October this year will multiply the existing achievements of this country. "Belarus will always support the choice of the Uruguayan people," the head of state stressed. - We are interested in intensifying cooperation both on the political and economic track, which could be facilitated by the signing of an agreement on the mutual abolition of visas. We count on the Ambassador's active position in building effective and trusting bilateral contacts."

Summing up, the President stressed that old friends and new partners interested in strengthening and developing relations with our country are always welcome in Belarus. "I know for sure that there are no distances for real friendship," the Belarusian leader drew attention. - We are open to new ideas, aimed at the implementation of the most ambitious projects. I am absolutely convinced that your stay on our land will be comfortable, your work will be productive, and your cooperation will be mutually beneficial."



The accents of present and future plans

As Zhang Wenchuan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Belarus, noted in an interview with journalists, it is a great honor for him to present his credentials to the President of Belarus on the day of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of China's formation. "China and Belarus are true friends and reliable partners," he stressed. - As the tenth Chinese Ambassador to Belarus, I came here to strengthen our traditional friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation. Belarus is famous for its centuries-old history, rich culture, beautiful landscapes and, most importantly, kind and peaceful people. An all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership has been established between our countries."

The diplomat said that in the short time he has been in our country, he has met many Belarusian friends. "I hope that as soon as possible I will be able to delve into the life of Belarusian society and, together with our Belarusian friends, make efforts to strengthen our friendship and cooperation," the ambassador stressed.

Zhang Wenchuan clarified that the last time he was in Belarus was in 2001. "Over the years, great changes have taken place in Belarus under the leadership of the respected President," he noted. - I see a lot of new buildings here, people live quietly, very well. Because as true friends, we

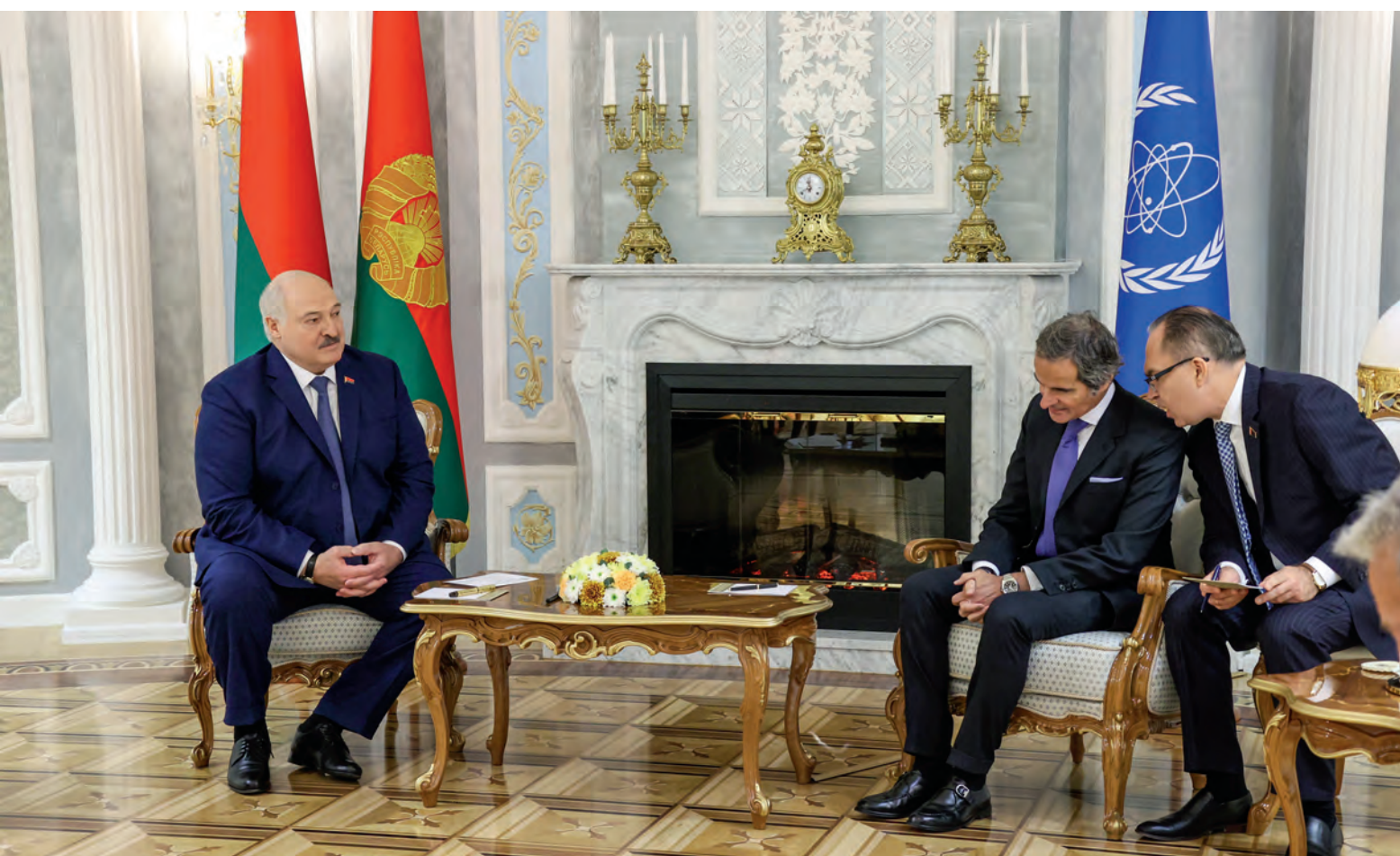
are pleased with the successes of our Belarusian friends and express confidence that under the leadership of the esteemed President, our friend, the people, Belarusians, will achieve even greater success in the development and construction of their country."

According to Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Belarus Timur Zhaksylykov, the two countries should strengthen cooperation in both political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. "We will work to expand our fruitful cooperation in all areas," he said. "In terms of economics, it is very important to work on the active implementation of joint projects in the field of industrial cooperation."

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia to the Republic of Belarus Iliana Vukailovic is very glad that in the last four months that she has been living and working in Belarus, she has managed to see our country, learn how we work and live. "You have strong enterprises, strong industry, and a very large scientific potential," the diplomat stated. - We will strive to work together and develop our relations. Serbia is a rapidly developing country. So our joint potential is really great. This year we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. We plan to move on - in all directions."

Alexey Fedosov
photo by Belta

CONTRIBUTION TO NUCLEAR SAFETY



**Alexander Lukashenko met with Director General of the
International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi**



The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an intergovernmental organisation within the UN system, established in 1957. The agency has 180 member states. Belarus has been a member of the IAEA since its establishment. The main functions of the IAEA include providing member states with the necessary assistance and developing scientific and technical cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy; assisting in ensuring an appropriate level of nuclear and radiation safety; ensuring that atomic energy is used exclusively for peaceful purposes and that nuclear materials are not sent for military purposes.

At the meeting, which took place in the Palace of Independence, the President noted that he personally, as well as the Belarusians, are very impressed by the active work of the International Atomic Energy Agency in recent times. “We see you often, we are familiar with your conclusions and statements,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko, addressing Rafael Grossi. “We very positively assess your work related to the safety of nuclear power plants, especially those plants that were in the zone of actual military operations — Zaporizhzhya and Kursk.”

The Head of State noted that he had heard a lot of good things about the IAEA’s Director General. “Russians have talked a lot about your visits, about your professional approach to solving certain issues,” he specified. “We value this very highly. Since the formation of our organisation, we have been its members and have attached and continue to attach great importance to cooperation with you. This is primarily due to the fact that we have become a nuclear power, we have built a nuclear power plant.”

The President drew attention to the fact that the most modern and safest nuclear power plant in the world was built in Belarus. “And our special feature is that we built it, figuratively speaking, from scratch,” specified the Belarusian leader. “We had no specialists, no experience, no knowledge in operating a nuclear

power plant. But we learned how to do this. We trained specialists in time, and the Russian Federation and the IAEA provided us with great assistance in this regard. Therefore, we can freely talk about the safety of our plant today. And the experience we have accumulated in Belarus will be useful to our organisation anywhere on the planet.”

“We are still struggling with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster”

According to the Head of State, speculations about the operation of the Belarusian nuclear power plant have been, are and will be. “You see this in Lithuania: they cannot calm down not only about our nuclear power plant, but also in general in connection with what is happening in our Belarus,” specified Aleksandr Lukashenko. “But this is already politics, we will not talk about it. In general, you should know that we are supporters of security, peace and we will do everything we can, everything that depends on us, in order to ensure regional nuclear security. You can be sure of this. We are smart people and do not rush into all sorts of adventures.”

The Belarusian leader noted that it was no coincidence that he raised this topic. Recently, statements have been made in the Ukrainian media that allegedly “Lukashenko wants to seize the Chernobyl station.” The Head of State cannot understand: what is the basis of this fake information?



“Why does Lukashenko need the Chernobyl station?” asked the President rhetorically. “We have already suffered enough from what happened after the explosion of this nuclear power plant, which, mind you, we did not build, we did not service and we did not blow up. And the main disaster fell on a quarter of our territory, and we are still struggling with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. Therefore, I assure you absolutely that this is complete stupidity, which even surprised me. We could not even imagine in our worst nightmare that we would have to ‘seize’ the Chernobyl station and then be responsible for it. There is no such need: not on the part of Belarus, and, believe me, on the part of Russia either. There was not, is not and never will be.”

Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that Rafael Grossi came to a kind, friendly country where very peace-loving people live. “And the people who are committed to the development of nuclear energy, because it is the future,” emphasised the Head of State. “We really need nuclear energy for our dynamically developing economy.”

In conclusion, the President thanked the IAEA’s Director General for the support and assistance that the agency has always provided to Belarus in the development of

peaceful nuclear energy, and expressed hope for good and close cooperation.

Belarus sets an example

In turn, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi expressed gratitude to the President of Belarus for the hospitality and warm welcome. “It is a great honour for me to be in Belarus together with my deputies and my team,” he noted. “We are visiting your country and discussing a number of issues.”

The Director General of the IAEA said that he still remembers his first visit to Minsk 12 years ago, when there was nothing in Ostrovets yet. “Today, we can see with great pleasure that both power units of the nuclear power plant are in operation,” he added. “I am especially pleased to hear that at the highest level, in this case at the level of the Head of State, the most serious commitment to ensuring nuclear safety is being demonstrated. This says a lot. And above all, it testifies to the professionalism that your country has on the long path to becoming a state producing nuclear energy.”

According to Rafael Grossi, the project to build a nuclear power plant in Ostrovets had many questions and

challenges from the very beginning. “And Belarus in this case serves as an example of how a country can work with the agency, how closely it can interact with experts and the mission of our organisation and show your country’s openness to this issue,” he specified.

Competent answers to questions

In a conversation with journalists, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi shared details of the meeting with the President of Belarus. “We discussed a number of very important issues in an open and trusting atmosphere,” he said. “First of all, this concerned the situation in the region, the conflict in Ukraine, the challenges and dangers that the situation in the region poses. I was able to inform Mr. President in detail about the work of the IAEA, which our agency has been conducting since the very beginning of the conflict, to ensure nuclear safety at nuclear power plants in Ukraine. In turn, it was very important for me to hear from the President of Belarus his position, his approaches to ensuring nuclear safety, his approaches to achieving peace in the region. And he conveyed these approaches to me in a very precise, open manner.”

The IAEA’s Director General spoke about his plans to visit the Belarusian NPP to ensure the safe operation of the power units. “We understand how important the construction of this nuclear power plant was for the Belarusian economy,” he clarified. “And we are very pleased that our agency took the most direct part in the construction of this station, ensuring the safety of this facility.”

Answering the question whether the IAEA has concerns about the work of the Belarusian nuclear power plant, Rafael Grossi noted that neither he as the head of the agency, nor the IAEA itself had any concerns or doubts regarding Belarus. “The countries with which we work (and in this context this is the Republic of Belarus) fulfil everything that is written in the recommendations,” he specified.

Speaking about regional nuclear safety and the participation of the Belarusian side in maintaining it, the Director General of the agency noted that, first of all, this is the close work of our country, the nuclear power plant itself with the IAEA, clear and consistent implementation of all recommendations, all necessary conditions, which, in turn, according to him, gives a signal to both the countries neighbouring Belarus and countries in other parts of the world that Belarus is a reliable country that fulfils all the necessary recommendations and takes all the necessary measures to ensure nuclear safety.

The IAEA’s Director General said that the agency’s specialists are present at the Zaporizhzhya NPP. “We need, first of all, support for our actions from all member



countries of the agency,” he emphasised. “Belarus is a very important participant in our agency, so, of course, support, including from Belarus, for our actions is extremely important. I hope that in the future, when the situation stabilises and the peaceful settlement process begins, both Belarus and the agency will be able to take a more active part in joint work to resolve the problems that exist in the region.”

Rafael Grossi was also asked how the IAEA assesses the situation at the Ignalina NPP in Lithuania from a security standpoint, related to that country’s plans to build a nuclear graveyard there. “We are aware of both the concerns of the Belarusian side about the actions of the Lithuanian side, and the concerns of the Lithuanian side that were voiced about Belarus,” noted the head of the agency. “Therefore, in this context, it is necessary to have an organisation like the IAEA that would ensure an objective approach and an objective assessment of what is really happening. An assessment that would be based not on some political preferences, but on expertise, real expert knowledge. These are the approaches that could be proposed as a resolution to those disputes that exist or could potentially exist between countries. We know what is happening in all countries, and we strive to be involved in those processes that are within our competence.”

Aleksandr Pimenov
photo by Belta



THE FUTURE GENERATION OF BELARUS

Aleksandr Lukashenko's meetings with students of Belarusian universities continue. This time, students of engineering and technical universities discussed socio-political and personal issues with the head of state. Open Mic with the President gathered students, postgraduates and teachers from six universities that train specialists responsible for the technological and scientific sovereignty of the country at the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics. As is known, the first such meeting took place in early September at Vitebsk State University. Then the Head of State noted that the topic was ripe for a serious conversation with the generation that is destined to continue the historical path of Belarus.

The President's visit to the university is also a good opportunity to conduct a mini-check of how technical universities train personnel and what contribution they make to the real sector of the economy. An exhibition of scientific and innovative achievements of technical universities of Minsk was presented especially for this purpose. They concern such areas as standardisation, increasing defence capability, aviation, transport and road safety. Medical and agricultural technologies, communications. The Rector of the BSUIR Vadim Bogush said that the university works together with the defence sector of the economy. The President asked if they could help make a high-precision and jam-resistant missile. Vadim Bogush reported that work in this direction is underway. "If you do this, then I will consider that you are not eating your bread in vain. Ask for everything you need. We will create all the conditions for you. But we need to make the missile jam-resistant," said Aleksandr Lukashenko. The university is also engaged in unmanned transport.

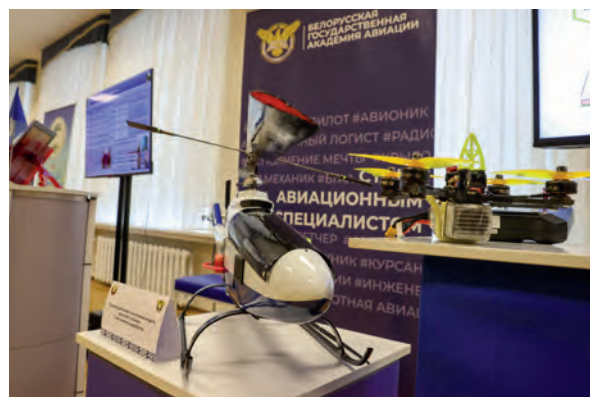
The President once again reminded that it is unacceptable to lag behind in this area. The topic is extremely important, as the Head of State noted the day before, examining domestic models of drones, today no war is possible without them. Therefore, the degree of attention to drones will not decrease. "BSUIR trains specialists and conducts scientific research in three key areas for the country: microelectronics, radio electronics and information technology. We work closely with our enterprises. And we have completed this year's admissions campaign in full," said the Rector of BSUIR. "At the same time, we have begun training in three new specialties — 'electronic engineering' (we are doing it together with Planar and Integral), 'cyber-physical systems' and 'digital marketing' (together with enterprises of the Ministry of Industry and High-Tech Park)." Vadim Bogush also noted that the university pays special attention to practice-oriented training, about 20 percent of the teachers are experts from the real sector of the economy.

The Belarusian National Technical University, the Belarusian State Technological University, the Belarusian State Agrarian Technical University, the Belarusian State Aviation Academy and the Belarusian State Academy of Communications. Students of these universities had a unique opportunity to talk directly with the President. And they did not miss it, as the meeting lasted about three hours.

“Who will continue our story?”

The tone of the meeting was set right away. “You are the future of our country. As trite as it may sound, it has always been like that, the youth are the future of our country. And it is very important what mood you are in, what you think about the future. Maybe our opinions do not coincide. Then let’s find a certain compromise, as smart Slavs and Belarusians should do. We have always been reasonable and compromising people. This is very important,” the President noted. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that he is well informed about many processes in society. He said that he knows about the situation at the university, is aware of how the admissions campaign and allocations are going. “I also know what you write, talk about, argue about. In general terms,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. “But the main thing for me as the President is that each of our young people, having graduated from high school, has the opportunity to enter a university. On an equal footing.” The President recalled how in Soviet times it was very difficult to enter a university due to the high competition, and there was also the problem of connections. “I would be very upset if one of our students said that we have this problem. As far as I understand this process, we have another problem — we have shortages in certain specialties in many universities,” the Head of State noted. And much is being done to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to get a higher education. For example, targeted directions, this is especially relevant for graduates of rural schools. “I try to do everything so that everyone has equal conditions,” noted the President.

“The information environment has made us all very frank and, unfortunately, vulnerable. You understand this better than me. You, future specialists in information technology, electronics, do not need to be told about the speed of distribution and extraction of data on any person. And if we ourselves trust this data to the gadget, then we understand that we become not the subject of the relationships that are established in the information space, but an object,” the Head of State noted. He said that sociological research data often appears on his desk with a claim to form a social portrait of modern youth. “But I know that not a single such document, not a single memo or report on current issues of youth policy will answer the main question of who will continue to build and develop Belarus,” noted the President. This is what he called the reason for his meetings with students. “You came here to ask your questions to the president, and I came to see you, to understand and form my own opinion, to find an answer to this question, which is the most important thing for me today. I will repeat it: who will continue our history?”



The history of sovereign Belarus. I am talking about this sincerely and openly,” explained Aleksandr Lukashenko.

We must find adequate solutions

The President said that his morning usually begins with an overview of the socio-political situation in the country and the world. He noted that the whole world is currently following the election campaign in the United States. Aleksandr Lukashenko explained why, “Indeed, this is an important country, and how world relations between states will develop depends largely on it. But mainly because they have turned the political process into an interesting, exciting TV series.”

The Head of State noted that modern politicians, experts, and analysts of the constructive world majority are forced to talk about the real situation, repeating the same narrative — “the world is on the brink of a new world war”. He explained that this is not said to scare. But in order not to distract attention to notice the stupidity, not to relax, and to concentrate on national interests. “I often say: Belarus is a piece of land. This is not a definition of territorial scale. The world is huge. And no one needs us except us. Trust my experience. But if you look from the point of view of the geopolitical interests of other countries, we will see a different image,” said the President. He cited figures to confirm this: Belarus alone is 6 countries like Belgium, 5 countries like the Netherlands, more than two and a half of Austria or the Czech Republic in terms of territory. “We can accommodate the peoples of the entire Baltic States and Moldova. This is approximately. And not only accommodate. We can clothe and feed them,” noted the President. He also added that we have forests and swamps — the lungs of Europe. “Our cultivated fields and water are resources that will be worth their weight in gold in the future, because not every European country has such a reserve and not everyone takes care of it as we do. By the way, during the First World War, Germany robbed us, and after the division of Belarus in 1921, Poland did the same. They brazenly took peat, timber and food from our country on narrow-gauge railways. And at that time, Belarusians were starving,” reminded Aleksandr Lukashenko. But, according to him, the main thing is that we are on the way to an unprecedented and, in the opinion of Western countries, unfairly rich (in

these and other resources) Russia. “And there is no need to discuss the political and sanction attacks by the collective West against our states and the Russians further,” stated the President. “Of course, today the number one issue is resources. It has always been like this in our history. Today, the West has the highest technologies, which in certain areas neither Russia nor Belarus possesses. There are technologies, but they require resources to produce finished products — drones, products based on artificial intelligence, and so on. Resources are needed. Sources of rare earth metals are needed. Where are they concentrated? First of all, in the Russian Federation.” The President emphasised that the high-tech West has always strived to the east, to the treasure trove of resources. This is happening now. According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, as a historian, he observes that history repeats itself every hundred years.

It is important for you to understand why modern politicians talk so much about national interests, sovereignty, statehood.



If you lose all this, then from the status of citizens of your country you can sharply fall to the level of those dependent on a foreign state, become the workforce of transnational business. Someone may live richly, but not everyone. Most — worse. And we have also been through this in our history. That is why I talk a lot about social justice and peace. That is why we are working in this direction. And our peace initiatives do not object at all to the countermeasures on defence capability that we are forced to take,” said the President. “We must respond to the current situation, predict further developments, and find adequate solutions.”

Belarus is also strengthening its allied relations with Russia, we have become full members of the SCO, an all-weather and comprehensive strategic partnership has been built with China, and integration within the EAEU and the CIS is deepening. “I would ask you and urge you to follow this agenda, because in the future it will determine the vector of

your life, the lives of your children and grandchildren. We are building long-term cooperation with the progressive world majority. You must continue it and fill it with new content. First of all, in the economic direction,” said the President.

Modernity is a time of opportunities

As the President noted, the Republic of Belarus is an export-oriented country. A country with an open economy. Therefore, according to him, it is suppressed by sanctions, forcing it to constantly look for new markets and suppliers of components, the production of which has not yet been mastered. “We know that all difficulties are temporary. And this is a time of opportunities. In the global world, it is impossible to close the transfer of technologies or products. This is simply unrealistic. We also understand this in practice. Moreover, the sanctions pushed us, forced us to move, to move forward. Design bureaus of large enterprises, the Academy of Sciences of Belarus are actively engaged in import substitution, including, as I am convinced, universities. This is right, and we simply have no other choice if we want to survive. If we do not learn to make components for our products, then no one will need these products,” said the President, emphasising that today we have modern buses and electric buses of our own production. We produce and sell cars, tractors and harvesters, which are no worse in quality than the best imported models. There are achievements in microelectronics, we even made our own laptop, in information technology, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology. “The country is developing, people are developing,” Aleksandr Lukashenko summed up. “And we will make a domestic mobile phone, which we are talking about a lot now. We are obliged to do it. Because gadgets, as you have seen recently, have been turned into military weapons. This is already a matter of national security.”

“Sanctions were imposed not against me, as they like to say in the West, a dictator, but against you and your parents, loved ones. This is fascism. But they teach us democracy. They demand humanity from us. These are not even double standards, but a complete degradation of human conscience and dignity,” said the Head of State.

To carry out a scientific and technological revolution in an accelerated format

Addressing the students, the President admitted that he really wants them to find their fulfilment in their profession, start families, and become parents. “All this will happen. The main thing on this path of life is for you to assess the situation globally, see the connection between domestic and foreign policy, and understand the essence of the historical moment,” he advised. According to the Head of State, no matter what position a person holds, he or she will not escape politics, so he or she needs to understand it. Maybe even no worse than his or her specialty.

“Geopolitical competitors are doing everything to knock Belarus off the path to a new economic order. Sanctions,

the fight in the information field for its values, traditions, historical memory take a lot of energy and resources. This is true. But it is also true that we are still creating our own economy, as it is fashionable to say today, a digital economy, introducing elements of the 6th and 7th technological orders into life. Smart cities, smart transport, artificial intelligence, drones, innovative production — this is the future that you will continue to build, having become certified specialists,” said the Head of State. According to him, this is already a reality in which Belarusians have succeeded. He gave examples. The developments of engineers from Planar, Integral, military industry enterprises, the Academy of Sciences, technology parks at universities have already been implemented in production and exported, and are even used in the space sector. But, as the Belarusian leader noted, there is still work to do here, “The industry faces the most ambitious tasks. I repeat. We must carry out a scientific and technological revolution in an accelerated format. Therefore, the development of the engineering industry is a strategic direction for us that will determine the future of Belarus. We cannot stop, much less fall behind.” According to him, it is for this reason that funds will be invested in the development of promising technical areas: robotics, nanoelectronics, complex self-learning systems, etc. “We are currently planning to create high-tech incubators — centres of progressive thought — at the premises of specialised universities. For people like you — goal-oriented young people with interested eyes, fresh ideas, and an unconventional view of solving scientific and applied problems. I think BSUIR should implement such a project. And if you take the risk, we will definitely support you,” the Head of State shared his plans. He noted that engineers who will tomorrow come directly to production, factories, and agricultural organisations will not be left without attention. “Decent working conditions and wages, social support, and housing will be a must-have priority for our policy in the next five years,” promised the President. “There are many plans. But I will return to the purpose of our meeting. It is very important for me to understand how subtly you feel your responsibility for the future of the country, how well you navigate the events and facts that form the international and domestic information agenda of today. We, adults, are constantly thinking about how to explain it to you, but you see and understand a lot yourself, and make very correct, wise conclusions. That is why I came to you for an open conversation,” the Head of State addressed the audience.

What does the President need?

As Aleksandr Lukashenko had instructed, the meeting participants did not hesitate to ask various questions, even personal ones. And the first question was one that probably interests many: how to keep in mind such a mass of information that the President has to deal with every day. The engineers, of course, asked whether artificial intelligence or special automated programmes help with this.



“Don’t think that my head is different from yours. It’s exactly the same head. You just need to be able to systematise the information,” the President responded to this. According to him, this is also important because, in addition to a large amount of information, the head of state is faced with the need to make many important decisions. And in order not to make a mistake, you need to have information and understand it. “You understand: God forbid in a society like the Belarusian society, where there are mostly smart and educated people, to make a systemic, global mistake. This is the most dangerous thing for any leader, especially the president,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. Therefore, it is necessary to put knowledge and information ‘on the shelves’, like in a library. The President said that this is how he learned to work with information, back in his student years, for which, according to him, he is still grateful to his teachers. And, of course, experience plays a big role.

Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled his statement that presidents are not made, presidents are born. “If you do not have the basic elements, properties and qualities of a president by nature, do not get involved in this area. I think a lot now, naturally, it is a transitional period, I understand that someone will come after me, will govern the country. Bad, good... You will evaluate this later, comparing. Everything is known in comparison,” noted the Head of State.

The President emphasised that he recently appointed many young officials, some of whom are not even 40 years old. “There must be young people. But they must have gone through certain stages. And my experience, my presidential life allowed me to see these people in action. They grew up before my eyes. And when appointing, I understand that this or that person has experience. Knowledge is necessary. They are the base, the foundation on which your experience lies. All this together and a passionate desire to do something useful will contribute to the fact that you will work more or less effectively as president,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

During the conversation, it was noted that many foreign policy issues are resolved thanks to the personal connections of the President. According to him, this is also a very important skill. “A lot depends on your personal connections. Here is the next president, he must be ready for the fact that he will have to prove his level in the international arena,” said the Head of State.

By the way, Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he does not use artificial intelligence or special automated programmes in his work, he is used to working in the old way. But, according to him, he is immersed in this issue, because this is the future. The Head of State also shared his concerns about the fact that artificial intelligence can take people captive, and if, as a result of the development of technology, humanity finds itself out of work, it will be a disaster. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled that in all periods of history, man was at the centre of all processes. And this cannot be lost. Although today we cannot do without technology. “We must master this, we must have it. This is very important,” summarised the Head of State.

As is known, the President’s schedule includes many foreign business trips. The students asked which was the most extreme. They were probably surprised that the President said that every business trip can be called extreme, since very tense negotiations are often hidden behind protocol events. “Probably the most extreme business trip was last year, when I had to fly to China and then to Africa,” the Head of State gave an example. He told how on the way from China he stopped in the United Arab Emirates, where he held several more working meetings. “Then we flew to the east of Africa, from the east to the west of Africa, from the west to the east again. I think we finished in Kenya. And again we returned to the Emirates, met with the President, agreed on some issues. I think this took more than a week. It really was an extreme trip, especially since these are hot countries. And I am a northern person, you could say I hate heat in general. These days were a test for me,” admitted the Head of State. He shared that in general he does not like business trips and finds long trips abroad difficult. “That’s why I’ve never really been on vacation in all my years as president. I can only relax at home, although it’s hard to say that it’s a vacation. I love my country very much, I love its nature. It’s a unique place where we live,” emphasised the President.

The students asked the Head of State whether he considered his visit to Yugoslavia in 1999 extreme. This trip by Aleksandr Lukashenko to the country that was being bombed at that time has already become historic. “True, there was Belgrade... I’ve already forgotten about it!” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He called those events of 25 years ago fascism on the part of NATO. The alliance never guaranteed the safety of the Belarusian plane’s flight to Yugoslavia. Moreover, knowing that the head of another country was in Belgrade, they carried out air raids. “We were approaching the border of Yugoslavia, the crew commander came to me and said, “Mister President, we were ordered to go down

to “up to a kilometre in height”.” I realized what it was. They thought I would turn around: it’s very dangerous. I said, “Let’s go down.” He looked at me, “They’ll shoot you down!” I said, “They won’t shoot us down, let’s go down.” And so I was sitting by the window and looking: it seemed like we were gliding along the treetops. They saw that we were not scared. When we were flying up to the airfield, they’ve started bombing Yugoslavia, missiles were flying. We were landing under this cannonade. I didn’t even know that some of our guys even took parachutes with them. It was such an extreme trip. The Serbs appreciated it and still appreciate it,” recalled the Head of State.

The young people also drew attention to the fact that the Head of State doesn’t use a mobile phone. And continuing the topic, they asked at what stage the development of a domestic mobile phone is. But this work is just beginning and it’s too early to talk about the stage. The main thing here, according to the Head of State, is that Belarus is going its own way, creating its own technology. As is known, Belarusian manufacturers recently presented a domestic computer. And even though there were imported elements there, the main thing is that the work has begun.

As for the mobile phone, the President gave the exclusive information. He said that he uses a closed-communication mobilephone. And he even showed it. Aleksandr Lukashenko said that this phone uses a KGB development that does not allow listening to a conversation — the speech is encrypted, and when trying to intercept a conversation, sounds similar to gurgling are heard on the air, it is decrypted only when a signal is received on another similar device. In this regard, the gadget is quite massive, but work is underway to make it more compact. About 70 people can talk through closed communication lines with the President. You can get on this list only with the personal permission of the Head of State. The President noted that this is a development of the KGB cryptographic school, which has been preserved in Belarus since the Soviet Union, not destroyed. And this development is of interest to other countries.

The more ideas the better

Young people asked how the President feels about start-up projects and how relevant this issue is for Belarus. “I live by these issues, this is the essence of our country’s development,” Aleksandr Lukashenko noted. He emphasised that we need relevant ideas that will bring concrete results.

The President recalled how he has repeatedly supported various proposals and projects, including IT. According to him, it is necessary to continue moving towards the implementation of modern projects. “We need this in order to survive, to protect ourselves. And the more ideas, the better. But the idea must be real, preferably down-to-earth and supported by at least something. So that when making a decision and allocating money, I or someone else can be sure that this idea will be needed today, tomorrow.”

You have to go your own way

Students, of course, were also interested in university issues. For example, the President was asked whether he considered it necessary for Belarusian universities to participate in international rating systems. The Head of State's answer was unambiguous and clear, "If universities want to be in the rating system, then let them be. But I do not pay attention to this, since it is all politicised."

Aleksandr Lukashenko called the main criterion for evaluating universities the demand among applicants, including foreign ones. For example, BSUIR increased the provision of export services by 5 percent this year compared to last year, due to which almost half of the university's budget for the year is formed. "This is a rating. If foreigners come to you, this is a rating," noted the Belarusian leader.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, Belarus is capable of producing high-quality products of the highest world level not only in the field of educational services, but also in the real sector of the economy. Of course, not in the same volumes as in large countries. This is enough to help other countries. The President cited Venezuela as an example, where Belarusian specialists created entire industries in both the civil and military spheres. "That is, we know how to do everything that is needed. And those who need it know who to come to," the President summed up. Therefore, according to him, we need to go our own way.

The one who strives for a goal, will reach it sooner or later

A meeting with the President is also an opportunity to take a step towards your dream. Thus, a cadet of the Aviation Academy Alesya Parechina admitted that she would also like to participate in the Belarusian space programme, following the example of Marina Vasilevskaya. "It is clear that with Vasilevskaya these were my agreements with President Putin. I understand what space is. It is training. It is a lot of money," noted the Head of State. "The man treated me as a brother, as an older brother." At the same time, Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he could arrange for the girl to join the cosmonaut corps, but warned that the flight could take place in 11—12 years. Cosmonaut training takes a lot of time. But girls have advantages: there are almost no women in the cosmonaut corps. The President said that when the first flight of a representative of Belarus was planned, it was about it being a woman. As a result of a serious selection, Marina Vasilevskaya flew into space. "This is an exception. And to fly away again is already about your abilities. Of course, I will support. But this will take years. And it is you who will develop a certain scientific programme," he warned. Aleksandr Lukashenko emphasised that an astronaut is a profession, and one must grow in it gradually. "The one who strives for a goal, will reach it sooner or later," said the President.



The red line is the state border

There were also some pressing issues. The meeting participants discussed the conflict in Ukraine and the problems it caused. They also recalled the attempts to drag Belarus into the war, as well as the overall aggravation of the situation. Aleksandr Lukashenko recalled his words, spoken during the patriotic forum on September 17th, "An attack on Belarus shall mean the third world war." "Thank you, Putin recently confirmed this, amending the nuclear doctrine, that an attack on Russia and Belarus — and we use nuclear weapons. He confirmed my words. This was the essence of my statement," clarified the Head of State. However, according to him, the West does not want this either, they are not ready for this. "But we tell them honestly: the red line is the state border. If you step on it, the response will be immediate. We are preparing for this. I am speaking about this honestly and openly," said Aleksandr Lukashenko.

The President of Belarus is convinced that it is necessary to negotiate with the Ukrainians and stop the war. According to him, human memory will heal the wounds and relations between people will be restored over time. "Just don't go any further here. We need to negotiate. This is my firm position," said the Head of State. He noted that Belarusians maintain contact with Ukrainians through certain channels. Relations with Russians are in plain sight. "And we are trying to ensure that everything is normal in these contacts. Zelensky has not heard this yet and does not want to listen. Why? Because the Americans are pushing them towards this war. The war is beneficial to America, very beneficial. Russia is not the main thing. We need to create Europe. Don't think that Americans and Europeans are one family. Americans do not need a strong Europe," explained Aleksandr Lukashenko. He also added that thanks to this war, the US is developing its military-industrial complex, leaving money in its own country. According to the



Belarusian leader, the Americans have their own goals in this war, but they do not want to fight with their own hands; American society does not like zinc coffins.

“We must go quickly, but not hurry”

Aleksandr Lukashenko explained that he told all this so that young people could navigate what was happening around them. “My advice to you, based on my experience, is to never break away from your land,” he said.

The President was asked whether the practice of pardoning convicts would continue. “Yes, I will continue. Because this is my job, this is the constitutional duty of the President — to pardon a person. Therefore, you need to fulfil your duties,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. According to him, he understands that among those pardoned there will be those who break their promises to no longer engage in the activity for which they were punished. It happens.

“That is why I say: do not break away from the ground and never rush. Patience. And you need to wait for some time. This is exactly what you need to do. Never rush anywhere out of the blue. Never rush. Yes, you need to go quickly, but slowly. Carefully. Think, check,” the President advised young people. At the same time, he admitted that he himself made unwise decisions in his youth. At the same time, the Head of State noted that he really likes working with young people, passing on his experience and knowledge to them. Therefore, he considers the work of a university rector to be the most interesting.

There will be no Belarus without the village

At the beginning of the conversation, the President noted that the concept of a smart city is being developed and applied in Belarus. And the students wanted to know when to expect a smart Belarusian village.

According to Aleksandr Lukashenko, this is even simpler than a smart city, since a village is incomparably smaller. “Develop some village, we will make it ‘smart’. The people

there are somewhat different, but nevertheless, it is possible. If you have such an idea and there are people for it, let’s do it,” suggested the Head of State. He supported the opinion that the development of smart villages can affect the life of the country, since the agricultural sector occupies an important place in the structure of the Belarusian economy. “We need to decide what functions we will leave to this smart village. Maybe some that we will not need in the city,” suggested the President. “This is the future. Because after all, our soul is like this... Not exactly a peasant soul, more like a village soul (we are kind, responsive people, ready to share the last, we have developed collectivism). And this is more in the village, they live as one family. “There can be no Belarus without the village, there can be no country,” said Aleksandr Lukashenko. He emphasised that the village clothes and feeds the city. Therefore, much attention is paid to development. “And when developing the village, we must direct the most advanced technologies there. Including a smart village,” stated the Head of State. He is confident that villagers will perceive this with great interest.

Continuing with the agricultural theme, the President was asked to highlight the top 5 favourite agricultural crops. “We cannot do without potatoes,” Aleksandr Lukashenko immediately answered. “After potatoes, I would put apples for Belarus. We are an apple land.” He had to think a little about the rest. Aleksandr Lukashenko noted that he could have named plums, apricots, and so on, but these are not vital crops. “I would name corn. It is very important for us. A saviour. The climate has become drier. Corn grows, especially in Gomel. It saves us. From this point of view. I can call clover and flax, because they are on the coat of arms...” he continued.

The President admitted that in general he really likes working on the land. He said that some time ago he planted a garden where there are cherry plums and peaches. Watermelons, the cultivation of which Aleksandr Lukashenko had previously actively advertised, have also taken root in Belarus. The President said that he really likes agricultural experiments, and tests various equipment. “Look, I’m testing a watering machine right now. We have so much water, so many rivers. And the field next to the river is dry. Why don’t we water the fields? After all, I go to the south, to the Asian republics — they have moist soils everywhere... And we can’t pour water from the river onto the neighbouring field. So I’m experimenting with this now. And then it all goes into the country. But I have to try it myself, I have to see it,” said the Head of State.

The issue of quality is the most important

The meeting participants discussed not only pressing issues, but also plans for the future. The next year, 2025, is the 80th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War. The President was asked whether holding a celebratory parade with the participation of countries that helped defeat the Nazis had been discussed.

“It has not been discussed and will not be discussed for certain reasons,” replied the President. He drew attention to the fact that Western countries did not invite representatives of Belarus and Russia even to the recent memorial events in Auschwitz, which was liberated by Soviet troops. “They are all trying to say that they won and saved the planet from the brown plague, and the Soviet Union had nothing to do with it. They want to reorient the whole world and, first of all, recode us. But we know who is right. Therefore, they will not invite us anywhere. And they will not hold any events with us. I am absolutely convinced,” added Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Speaking about 2025, the students asked what topic the next year would be devoted to. The President said that he was thinking of dedicating the entire next five-year period to quality, the most important topic. “There is no more important issue for Belarus. Because everything we produce, we live off of it. And everything we produce, the whole world produces. And how can we live then? We want to sell our own. And how can we sell it? If it is of high quality. For us, the main issue now is the issue of quality. Not because our products are bad, but they must be an order of magnitude higher in quality. It is a matter of survival.” Therefore, it is necessary to organise a five-year quality period. And based on its results, the best organisations, enterprises, and goods will be recognised. However, the Head of State noted that this is only speculation for now. Therefore, according to him, he is open to suggestions. One of them was to call the next year the Year of Historical Responsibility. The President called this idea interesting and promised to think about it.

There should only be truth at the core

Discussing modern problems, the students asked the President about his opinion on the fight against information challenges and threats. Aleksandr Lukashenko agreed that there is an information war going on in the world. As an example, he cited the activities of the Ukrainian special operations forces unit CIPO (Centre for Information and Psychological Operations), “They are lying outright. Remember Bucha in Ukraine? It was an information and psychological operation, and our intelligence has established exactly who it was. It was the British, they organised it. Here is an information and psychological operation for you.”

The Head of State noted that the Belarusian responses to this should be based only on the truth. According to him, the launch of a new TV channel in Belarus, First Information, with all its shortcomings, was a response to the actions of ill-wishers in the information war. “I also criticise it. I see that they have already begun to move in a more independent direction. But it is a good channel,” said the Belarusian leader. And he admitted that together with his son they noticed that they no longer watch other channels, but only this one is turned on to get the basic information in a complex. Therefore, according to the President, it is now necessary to raise the level of other domestic TV channels.



Without IT technologies, development is impossible

The meeting participants are obviously aware of the main issues on the agenda. One of those present recalled the President's words that Belarus should not lag behind in training personnel for modern warfare and, in particular, specialists in drones and electronic warfare. The students suggested opening military departments in universities where there are no military departments to train specialists in such areas. Aleksandr Lukashenko called this initiative reasonable and instructed the Ministry of Defence to work on this issue together with university rectors. According to him, students of the same BSUIR can become the best drone operators, because this topic is very close to them.

The President also noted that economic development is impossible without IT technologies. It will continue to work, the state will support it. According to the Belarusian leader, when the HTP received a number of preferences, specialists from the National Academy of Sciences and large industrial enterprises became concerned and began to develop their own IT competencies. This is how they got their own strong teams of IT specialists, who are already superior to those from the HTP. “That's the main thing. This is where this march across the country began,” explained the Head of State.

Thanks to the participants of this meeting, the symbol of IT technologies will now be in the Palace of Independence. The President was presented with a painting created by artificial intelligence. The author of the idea set it the task of showing Belarus as intellectual, technological, progressive, agricultural, as well as presenting its national symbols and outlining its place in the world. The result is impressive. “A very valuable thing. Moreover, it was obtained using this method,” the President commented on the gift. At the end of the meeting, he thanked the participants and organisers and repeated his advice, “I beg you — think and take your time.”

Vladimir Velikhov
photo by Belta



BLOGGERS AND MEDIA HAVE A COMMON GOAL — TO BE USEFUL

The First Bloggers Forum 'BlogBy. We Have Something to Say!' was held at the National Children's Technopark in Minsk. It brought together about 150 content makers and media experts from Belarus, Russia, and Latvia. The programme of the event included theoretical and practical cases, visits to iconic places and sites in the capital, as well as informal communication with media community experts, journalists, and media executives, and a presentation of the activities of Belarusian media.

Even if someone was unable to visit there, the Belarusian media provided detailed information about how bloggers exchanged experiences, made new acquaintances and established business contacts, how they communicated with Belarusian journalists, political scientists and heads of the republican media. Also, how they discussed what content is popular now and focused on ways of promotion on social media. And also on how in modern conditions one should resist information wars. An important emphasis was made on the responsibility of bloggers to their audience. Everything was carried out at a serious and responsible level.

Who are they, today's bloggers? This is how Vladimir Pertsov, Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration, put it, "...Both media journalists and bloggers are all citizens of our country, they are those who wish the best for our country, for the people who live here, who wish prosperity and beauty, well-being for their small region or the sphere about which they write their blogs, in which they, perhaps, work and understand much better and more than a journalist who came there to film."



If we talk about digital sovereignty, the rules of the game are changing, and this can be seen in the example of blocking Belarusian and Russian media on Western platforms — Vladimir Pertsov said this at the first bloggers forum in Belarus.

Bloggers and journalists should cooperate for the sake of the future media landscape of the country. And here is what Vladimir Pertsov emphasised in this regard, "Bloggers are socially active people, people who present their point of view in their blogs, their attitude to certain objects that they reflect in their blog environment. They have a large audience. This means that their opinion, their view on this or that area is interesting to a large number of people." "And many of these people live far beyond our Belarus. This is one of the advantages of the Internet, when a created video flies into the tops in countries that are many hundreds or thousands of kilometers from our country."

According to Vladimir Pertsov, the first blogger forum in Belarus, BlogBy, is a good platform for exchanging opinions

and accumulated experience. "Today is the first meeting, the first opportunity, thanks to the Ministry of Information, to gather in one audience about 150 bloggers and journalists from state and non-state media, who can meet, exchange contacts, be useful to each other, share the developments that journalists have, who are also trying to do something in the blog environment, and those bloggers who are trying to cooperate with the media. These developments will build such a path of civilized mutual cooperation," summed up Vladimir Pertsov.



Here is what the Minister of Information Marat Markov said when addressing the participants on the opening day of the forum, "Today's event is unique in its own way. Firstly, we are holding a bloggers' forum for the first time. Secondly, the audience of all the forum participants, who have been bloggers for a long time or are just starting to advance in this field, mentors and experts, totals more than 27 million people. And these are only those we counted. There are probably many more." In this regard, the Minister of Information drew the bloggers' attention to the fact that the audience looks up to them, "I want you to remember that people who subscribed to your



- Marat Markov, Minister of Information, among journalists before the First Bloggers Forum 'BlogBy. We have something to say!'
- Irina Akulovich, Director General of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency (BelTA)
- Chairman of Belteleradiocompany Ivan Eismont
- Director of the National Library of Belarus, historian, political scientist Vadim Gigin

channels and social media look up to you, they listen to you, they compare their risks with yours. This imposes a certain responsibility. You and I have Belarus. A beautiful country, and we will definitely not have another land like it. And in order for it to remain as beautiful, we need to work. And not only the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Education and departments, but all of us first and foremost." In addition, Marat Markov expressed the following thought before the opening of the forum, "I really want those who participate in the event, and it is truly unique, to like it so much that they say: Ministry, do more."

The creation of a form of communication between the state and bloggers and bloggers with the state is one of the important tasks of the forum, which the Minister of Information voiced when communicating with representatives of the blogger community who arrived at the forum. The initiative to hold such a meeting belongs to government agencies, but, nevertheless, it is aimed at ensuring that bloggers experience the joy of such joint work.

"I really want you to have fun first and foremost and gain some knowledge that might be useful to you. But I would like to point out one thing," said the minister. "I want to congratulate you on the fact that we are at this unique event for the first time. This is the first forum of bloggers in Belarus, let's be honest — we are already in history!"



The total audience of all the bloggers sitting in the room is more than 27 million subscribers, as mentioned above. "These people look up to you, they listen to you, naturally, they first of all compare their thoughts with yours. This imposes a certain responsibility. And I want us to talk about this responsibility today," the head of the Ministry of Information emphasised. Marat Markov also noted that a lot depends on the blogger community, and the attitude of each of those present towards Belarus is very important. And for the country to remain peaceful and beautiful, as it is now, it is important for everyone to work.

The Minister of Information proposed a kind of battle to the bloggers, who are mostly young people, “I want to challenge you,” he said. “Considering the representation here today and the number of subscribers you all have, I will be surprised if today and tomorrow we do not turn the information space upside down and talk about this forum in such a way that everyone who did not make it here would want to gather there.”

By the way, Belteleradiocompany is ready to provide airtime for bloggers. This was stated by the Chairman of Belteleradiocompany Ivan Eismont

“Our ecosystem includes three components. The first is, of course, television. The second is our website. Probably, many people know that we had tvr.by — a corporate website where our information was posted that was broadcast on television, and many of our projects. All of this remains on our new website news.by. This is a news website, not a corporate one, although there is a lot of corporate stuff there. It works in conjunction with the First Information Channel. The third component is messengers and social media that are run by our company,” said Ivan Eismont. He also noted that among television journalists there are people who have grown out of the desire to go on air in their own name, and not on behalf of the company. “As a rule, we hardly interfere with their work, with what they want to convey to the viewer. They put their names under their materials and are responsible for the position that they convey to the viewers,” the

Chairman of Belteleradiocompany noted. Ivan Eismont assured that Belteleradiocompany is open to cooperation with bloggers, “This especially concerns those who are engaged in socio-political journalism and blogging. We have enough airtime. Having held certain negotiations and discussed the topic, we are ready to provide time for you, those who want to do this. Production and generation of information, primarily analytical materials. If anyone has questions, you know how to find us, this is not a problem. And we are ready to provide airtime.”

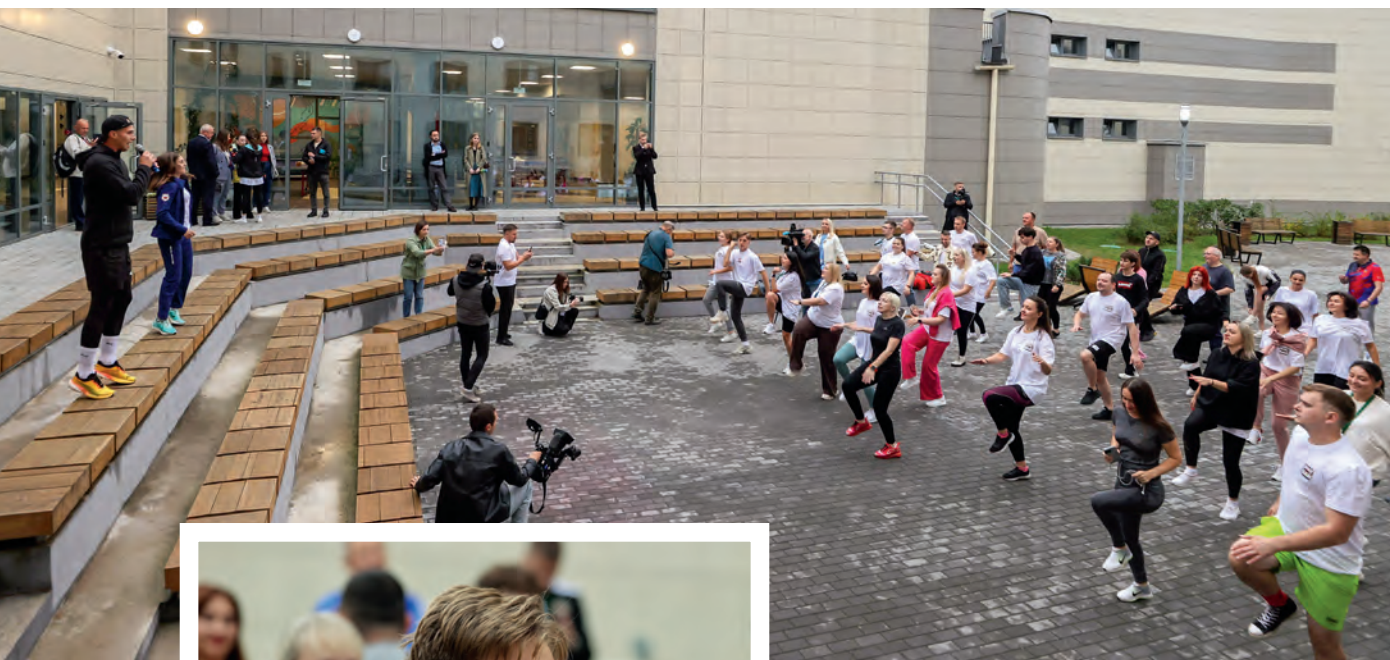


MEDIA SPACE

His speech, like the speech of Irina Akulovich, Director General of the Belarusian Telegraph Agency, on the sidelines of the first bloggers' forum in Belarus, caused excitement in the hall and was accompanied by applause. The Director General of BELTA recalled the statement of the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko, "We do not need someone else's property, we will create our own well-being ourselves, with our own labour and on our own land."

"We need to work together for this, and we need our own resource for this. And the main feature of VIDEOBEL (a multimedia portal, a kind of analogue of YouTube, where the materials of the largest republican media are collected in one place) is that you can watch all the most important things in one place," Irina Akulovich emphasised. And she explained, "We needed a platform that would not be censored by the American signal. That is why VIDEOBEL was created. In fact, this is a media portal that presents the content of the leading Belarusian media. We are talking about ONT, BT, STV, BELTA, the Belarus Segodnya publishing house, the Mir and First Information TV channels. We are still working with this content." The BELTA Director General

also noted that the portal is adapted for all platforms: phone, TV, computer. "Our task is to make the portal user-friendly. There are streams of all channels here. You can go and watch them in real time. "There are shorts, a programme guide and much more," she noted. In addition, Irina Akulovich added, the video is divided into thematic segments. The moment of interest in a particular video can be found by time code, "That is why the video does not immediately appear on our portal. It is one thing to simply click a button and upload a video, and quite another to really properly promote and design it." Speaking about the broadcasts of the programme guide of a particular TV channel, the Director General of BELTA noted that the broadcast is stored for 24 hours. "During this time, you can easily watch everything that was broadcast on the TV channel on the portal," she added. Irina Akulovich also said that a huge amount of high-quality content is produced in the country, which will eventually need to be posted on VIDEOBEL.BY. "Now, working as a small team, we certainly cannot post all the videos here. But in the near future, this will become possible. This must be done, because our task is to ensure that the content





produced for the benefit of Belarus is on our servers.”

The morning of the second day of the bloggers’ forum began with Olympic warm-ups. They were conducted for them by the Olympic champions of Belarus, bronze medalists — a representative of the Belarusian wrestling school Vanessa Kolodinskaya and track and field athlete Maksim Nedosekov..

And immediately the first videos from the event appeared online. Bloggers also paid tribute to several memorial complexes at once. Flowers were laid at the monument in Trostenets. In the flow of information, it is important to remember the heroic past of ancestors who gave their lives for a peaceful sky over Belarus — in this, most of the forum participants showed solidarity. Some of them shared their thoughts on why it is so important to remember the historical past and reflect this topic in their materials. After all, without the past there is no present, and there will be no future.

Providing the audience with quality and verified information is possible only through joint efforts. Therefore, the interaction of official structures and bloggers is one of the most pressing issues, and the forum is an opportunity to establish such contact. The opinion of bloggers that such forums should be organised was unanimous. After all, this is an exchange of experience, new contacts, and hopes for further cooperation.

As has already been said, the country’s media landscape is formed by the media and bloggers. And everyone has the same goal — to protect the information space from fakes and provide the audience with reliable information. Therefore, today bloggers are also significant players in the international arena. The voice of each of them has weight.



And as we have already understood, the audience of content makers is large. The possibilities of the Internet allow you to talk to a huge number of people. Bloggers themselves believe that they have authority among many thousands of people, if not millions. The first blogger forum ended with a presentation of media projects. Participants took home not only useful experience, but also new creative ideas. Many expect to return to the dialogue platform next year to share new creative ideas.

By the way, Belarusians are active users of social media. At the beginning of 2024, more than 5 million 600 thousand people were registered on various platforms. It was in order to direct the joint efforts of the state and opinion leaders to form an objective picture of life in Belarus that the first bloggers’ forum, BlogBy, was held in Minsk on September 27th-28th. We have no doubt that it will serve the further development of the blogosphere in Belarus, strengthening its community and the country’s media landscape.

Mikhailina Cherkashina
Photo by BelTA and sb.by

张汶川： 中白合作 是新型国际关系的 典范

中国国家主席毛泽东在天安门宣布中华人民共和国成立。第二天，苏联率先承认中华人民共和国，并很快与其缔结了友好同盟互助条约。同年 12 月 2 日，中国中央人民政府发布决议，宣布 10 月 1 日为国庆节。在这 75 年中，创造了中国的近代史，发生了被称为“中国奇迹”的重大变革。因此，中国已成为无可争议的世界领袖，在很大程度上为世界经济和政治奠定了基调。白俄罗斯与中国的合作正在蓬勃发展，并达到了前所未有的全天候、全方位战略伙伴关系水平。中华人民共和国驻白俄罗斯共和国特命全权大使张汶川向“星星报纸”介绍了中国现代化的特点，以及中白两国的合作前景。



大使先生，10 月 1 日是中华人民共和国成立 75 周年纪念日。这个日子对中国意味着什么？

这一天，是新中国成立的日子，也是中国历史新篇章的开端。1949 年 10 月 1 日，毛泽东同志在北京天安门广场的讲台上向全世界庄严宣告中华人民共和国成立，从此中华民族站起来了。10 月 1 日是中华民族的转折点，从这一天起，中华民族终于扭转了自 1840 年鸦片战争以来长达 100 多年积贫积弱、饱受压迫的悲惨命运，走上了伟大复兴的新道路。

中华人民共和国即将迎来建国 75 周年。在此期间，中国在发展的道路上经历了风风雨雨，但中国在逆境中坚定前行，收获了累累硕果。75 年来，中国共产党激励

全国各族人民不懈奋斗、团结奋进，在进行社会主义革命和社会主义建设、实行改革开放和社会主义现代化建设中取得了巨大成就。党的十八大以来，中国特色社会主义进入了新时代。中国共产党肯定了习近平同志在党中央和全党的领导核心地位，肯定了习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的领导地位。在习近平新时代中国特色社会主义思想的引领下，中国把马克思主义基本原理同中国具体实际和中华优秀传统文化和谐统一起来，取得了全方位的历史性成就。中华民族实现了从站起来、富起来到强起来的伟大飞跃。今天，中国自信地屹立在世界的东方，正在中国现代化的道路上披荆斩棘，实现中华民族伟大复兴。

贵国在此期间取得了哪些成就？

中华人民共和国成立75年来，在中国共产党的坚强领导下，中国取得了消除绝对贫困的历史性胜利，中国人民总体上进入全面小康社会，从贫穷落后走向繁荣富强，取得了举世瞩目的伟大成就。特别是党的十八大以后，中国特色社会主义制度更加成熟更加定型，国家治理体系和治理能力现代化水平大幅提升，中国现代化的独特优势日益彰显，党和国家事业取得历史性成就、发生历史性变革。

经济实力和综合国力显著增强。中国国内生产总值实现历史性跨越，稳居世界第二大经济体、第一大制造业国、第二大商品消费国、第一大外汇储备国，对世界经济增长的平均贡献率超过30%。中国已建成世界上最大的高速铁路和高速公路网。世界500种主要工业品的40%以上产自中国，产量居世界第一。我们加快发展高水平科技自主创新，在载人航天、月球和火星探测、深海和近地探测、新能源技术等方面取得重大成就。科技创新已成为经济社会高质量发展的重要引擎。

人民生活发生了翻天覆地的变化。中国彻底解决了绝对贫困问题，近1亿农村人口摆脱了贫困。与建国初期相比，扣除价格因素，全国居民人均可支配收入实际增长76倍，城镇人均住房建筑面积从8.3平方米增加到40多平方米。我们建立了世界上最大的教育、社会保障和医疗卫生体系，人民的福利、幸福和安全感不断提高。

精神世界不断丰富。我们继承和发展社会主义先进文化，推动伟大祖国优秀传统文化创造性转化、创新性发展。中国共有43项遗产被联合国教科文组织列入《非物质文化遗产名录》，居世界首位。全国公共图书馆和博物馆数量达到59个，是建国时的325倍。中华文化影响力显著提升，“中国开放”、“中国为人类文明发展做贡献”的声音不断传向世界。

建设“美丽中国”迈出重要步伐。秉承“青山绿水是无价之宝”的理念，我国在水土保持、防治荒漠化、保护生物多样性等方面取得显著成绩，成为世界上森林资源增加最多、人工造林面积最大的国家。我们积极推进“蓝天、碧水、净土”保护，重污染天数大幅减少，水环境质量大幅改善，土壤环境风险得到有效管控，千里山河焕发新的生机。

中国特色大国外交全面推进。中国坚定奉行独立自主的和平外交政策和改革开放的基本国策。中国已成为140多个国家和地区的主要贸易伙伴，商品贸易连续7年位居世界第一，吸引外资和对外投资居世界前列，共建“一带一路”成为广受欢迎的国际公共产品和国际合作平台。我们彰显负责任大国担当，倡导平等有序的世界多极化和包容普惠的经济全球化，推动构建人类命运共同体，实施“三个全球倡议”，极大提升了中国的影响力、吸引力和塑造力。当今世界，中国已成为最重要的和平、稳定、进步力量。

展望未来，中国共产党将团结带领亿万人民，以中国现代化为助力，全面推进强国建设和民族复兴大业，为人

类探索现代化提供新经验，为维护世界和平与发展作出新贡献。

中国近期面临的主要挑战是什么？

2022年10月，中国共产党第二十次全国代表大会确立了党在新时代新征程中的主要任务，即全面建设社会主义现代化国家，实现第二个百年奋斗目标，以中国式现代化全面推进中华民族伟大复兴。大会确定，党的二十大以后的五年，是全面建设社会主义现代化国家的关键时期。中国面临的主要目标和任务是：经济高质量发展取得新突破，科技自主创新能力大幅提升，形成新的发展格局、建设现代化经济体系迈出重大步伐。在全面深化改革开放上迈出新步伐，全面推进国家治理体系和治理能力现代化，形成更加完善的社会主义市场经济体制，构建开放型、更高层次的经济新体制。大力提高人民民主制度化、规范化、程序化水平，大力完善中国特色社会主义法律体系。人民精神文化生活更加丰富多彩，中华民族凝聚力和中华文化影响力不断增强。保持居民收入和经济收入普遍同步增长、劳动生产率和劳动报酬同步提高，基本公共服务均等化水平大幅提高，多层次社会保障体系更加完善。城乡人居环境明显改善，“美丽中国”建设取得显著成效。更加可靠地确保国家安全，适时实现建军100周年目标，深入推进“平安中国”建设。随着中国在国际舞台上的地位和影响力显著提升，中国将在全球治理中发挥更大作用。

今年7月，党的二十届三中全会胜利召开。全会对党的重大任务作出部署、发出号令。全会展现了进一步全面深化改革、推进中国现代化的全景，提出了未来五年的7大战略重点、14个重点领域和300多项重要举措，发出了全面深化改革的有力号召。

现代中国发展的特点及其对全球进程的影响是什么？

一个国家选择什么样的现代化道路，是由其历史传统、社会制度、发展条件、外部环境等诸多因素决定的。中国立足国情，走出了一条中国特色社会主义现代化发展道路，取得了一个又一个令世界瞩目的辉煌成就，向世界展示了中国现代化的独特气质。

首先，现代化涉及人口众多。中国正在为14亿多人口实现现代化，这个数字超过了目前世界上所有发达国家人口的总和。党的十八大以来，中国共产党组织实施了人类历史上规模最大、力度最强的脱贫攻坚战，全面建成了人类历史上规模最大、范围最广的中等收入社会，不仅拓展了发展中国家实现现代化的路径，也为解决人类问题带来了中国智慧和方案。其次，中国现代化要实现人民的普遍富裕。这是中国特色社会主义的本质要求，也是中国共产党人矢志不渝的奋斗目标。中国不仅取得了消除绝对贫困的历史性胜利，而且通过中国的现代化建设不断提高全体人民的生活水平。目前，中国中等收入人口超过4亿，居民人均可支配收入超过3.9万元，实现了从低收入国家向中等偏上收入国家的历史性跨越。第三，中国现代化需要物质文化和精神文化协调发展。振兴现代公共文化服务体系，创新实施文化惠民工程，扩大基本公共文化服务覆盖面和适用性，切实保障人民基本文化权益。中国现有公共图书馆

3300 多个，实体书店10万多个，农家书屋58.7万个。中国培养了人们对阅读的热爱，构建了滋养文明风尚的精神家园。第四，中国的现代化需要人与自然和谐共生。环境友好是中国现代化的标志。中国坚定不移地遵循可持续发展理念，统筹推进经济社会发展和环境保护，毫不动摇地坚持资源节约优先、生态保护优先、自然恢复为主的方针，坚定不移地走生产发展、生活富裕、生态良好的文明发展道路。健康的生态环境是最公平的公共产品，是最普惠的民生福祉。这已成为中国全社会的思想共识和自觉行动。最后，中国的现代化是在和平发展道路上进行的。中国的现代化没有走一些国家通过殖民掠夺实现现代化的老路，也没有走强国篡夺的错误道路。中国始终坚持在和平发展的基础上建设现代化。从推动构建人类命运共同体、“一带一路”倡议到提出“三个全球倡议”，中国用行动证明，中国追求的现代化不仅是只顾自己的现代化，而是在和平发展、合作共赢、共同繁荣的基础上追求世界的现代化。放眼世界，许多国家仍面临发展困境，人类实现现代化任重道远。中国的发展历程和制度建设与完善过程，是发展中国家从本国实际出发谋求发展的成功范例，不仅可以帮助广大发展中国家坚定发展信心，实现现代化，而且可以进一步丰富和完善人类现代化的理论、知识和实践。同时，它不仅为广大发展中国家实施现代化提供了重要的指导和启示，也积极推动了全人类的现代化进程。

中外将如何庆祝这一具有里程碑意义的日子？

今年中外庆祝中华人民共和国成立日活动将有三大特点。一是庆祝活动内容丰富。各地将举办升国旗仪式、无人机表演、地方庙会、彩灯展、焰火晚会等丰富多彩的庆祝活动。大道和街道将用国旗、彩旗、海报和横幅装饰一新，营造欢乐的节日气氛，让人们心中充满幸福感。第二个特点是庆祝活动的全国性。建国节期间，博物馆、展览馆、美术馆和公园将免费开放。此外，还将开展旅游景点、逛商场、看电影等优惠活动，让每个人都能充分参与到庆祝活动中来。庆祝活动的第三个特点是传统与创新相结合。在“中国教育日”庆祝活动期间，中国驻各国使领馆除举行升国旗仪式、节日招待会等纪念活动外，还在当地华人华侨社团、中国留学生、中资企事业单位的共同参与下，举办音乐会、图片展等活动，融入大量中国传统文化元素，包括舞龙舞狮、戏曲、书法、绘画等。

现阶段白中合作的特点是什么，其主要方面和前景如何？

在中华人民共和国主席习近平和白俄罗斯共和国总统亚历山大·卢卡申科的战略引领下，中白全天候、全方位战略伙伴关系快速发展，成为新型国际关系的典范。这是一个相互加强团结与互信的典范。中白两国虽然相距数千公里，文化、政体不同，但都坚持走符合本国国情的发展道路，按照独立自主、平等互利的原则发展国际关系。中白两国高层交往密切，建立了高度政治互信，推动了中白关系全面发展，这是双方从战略高度和长远角度达成的共识。

这是坚定不移走正确道路、参与全球治理的典范。作为联合国、上海合作组织等多边组织的重要成员，中白两国在涉及彼此根本利益和重大关切问题上相互坚定支持，致力于维护以我为主的国际体系和以国际法为基础的国际秩序，共同落实“三个全球倡议”，携手构建人类命运共同体。

这是促进互利共赢的务实合作的范例。白俄罗斯是共建“一带一路”的重要合作伙伴，正在深入推进中白巨石工业园等一批大型项目。除金融、农业、工程等领域合作外，近年来，中白两国在医药卫生、服务贸易、数字经济、高新技术等领域的合作也深入开展，双边合作潜力进一步开发，经济社会效益日益显现。

这是世代相传的忠贞和牢固友谊的典范。中白两国人民的友谊在二战期间用鲜血凝固，在抗击新冠疫情期間更加牢固，并通过频繁的互访和保持密切的关系深入人心。目前，中白大学协会已经成立，中白高等院校校长论坛已经举办，首部合拍电影即将上映，白俄罗斯国家图书馆中国图书中心举行了揭牌仪式，中白科技创新合作年已经启动，友好省区和友好城市不断增加。人文和地区间合作成果不断巩固两国人民相互关系的纽带，汇聚成一条源源不断的友谊长河。

在中白双方的大力关心下，中白关系为今后取得更大发展和更高成就奠定了坚实而深厚的基础。我希望越来越多的有志之士积极参与到中白友好的伟大事业中来，共同开创两国关系的美好未来。

富有成果的合作的一个重要因素是在我们国家领导人层面定期讨论合作的战略问题。这种做法有多重要？

两国元首外交有力推动了中白全天候、全方位战略伙伴关系持续发展，为中白各领域务实合作不断深化发挥了不可或缺的战略引领作用。

首先，这种做法有助于加强两国政治互信。作为中白关系的掌舵者和领航者，习近平主席同白俄罗斯共和国总统亚历山大·卢卡申科建立了高度互信和深厚友谊，定期就双边关系重大问题交换意见，加强对双边关系的高层政治引领和规划，为中白合作作出谋划策，为共同发展指明方向，促进了两国政治互信。

其次，这种方式有助于深化两国互利合作。在两国领导人的亲自关心和共同推动下，双方能够准确确定合作的主要领域和重点，及时发现和解决互动过程中可能出现的问题和挑战，充分发挥现有优势，交流经验和发展机遇，推动两国发展战略与高质量共建“一带一路”倡议对接，不断优化贸易结构，提高贸易质量，提升两国合作品质。

第三，这一方针促进了两国密切的国际合作。两国元首在国际和地区事务中保持密切互动和协调，鼓励双方在涉及彼此核心利益和重大关切问题上相互支持，在事关世界和平稳定和人类前途命运问题上形成一致立场，发表共同看法，践行真正的多边主义，维护国际公平正义，共同推动世界多极化和世界民主化进程。

中国和白俄罗斯共同实施的主要项目有哪些？

近年来，中方通过赠款援助、软贷款、企业间商业合作等多种形式，与白方共同实施了大量项目，极大地

促进了白俄罗斯的社会经济发展。当然，首当其冲的无疑是中白工业园，它是中国在海外最大的工业园区。它是“一带一路”倡议的合作项目，是在两国元首的共同关心和亲自帮助下发展起来的，两国政府对此高度重视。经过十余年的发展，该园区已发展成为基础设施完备、营商环境优良、经营理念先进的现代化园区，成为白俄罗斯最大的招商引资项目，被誉为“一带一路”上的明珠。目前，园区呈现出蓬勃发展的态势，并呈现出诸多发展特点。首先是国际化。工业园区是一个开放的国际平台，吸引了来自13个国家的134家入驻企业，投资总额达15亿美元。第二个特点是产业化。中白工业园将高科技和创新作为优先发展的产业，重点发展机械工程、电子商务、新材料、中药等领域。第三个特点是数字化。中白工业园注重引进信息技术和智能化技术，提高管理效率和服务水平。园区建立了“一站式”服务，所有行政手续均可在现场完成。



在联合国、上合组织、金砖国家等国际平台上如何开展互动？

密切、高效的国际合作是中白全天候、全方位战略合作伙伴关系的重要组成部分。两国在联合国、上合组织、金砖国家等国际组织平台上开展全面合作，维护两国共同利益，为地区和国际和平、安全与繁荣作出了重要贡献。

联合国是具有普遍性、代表性和权威性的国际组织。中白两国作为联合国成员国，积极参与联合国活动，坚定维护《联合国宪章》宗旨和原则，维护以国际法为基础的“一个中心”国际关系体系和全球秩序，反对一切形式的霸权主义和强权政治，共同致力于构建新型国际关系。双方应在涉及彼此重大利益和严重关切的问题上始终相互支持，在国际和地区热点问题上协调立场，保持在国际安全、人权、发展、环保等领域的沟通，全面推进扶贫、医疗卫生、交通物流、基础设施等领域合作，完善全球治理体系，推动国际秩序朝着更加公正合理的方向发展。

上海合作组织是欧亚地区国家加强凝聚力、增进互信、深化互利合作的重要平台。中国和白俄罗斯在上合组织平台上保持着长期接触与合作、积极参与上合组织内部的一系列互动机制，继续充分发挥上合组织青年营、妇女论坛、人民友好论坛、传统医学论坛等知名活动的作用，以及睦邻友好合作委员会等非政府组织的作用、开展密切的教育、科技、文化、卫生、体育、大众传媒等领域交流与合作，共同应对传统和非传统安全威胁，呼吁成员国就落实多边主义、完善全球治理一致表达上合组织立场、与国际社会其他成员共同努力，落实“全球发展倡议”、“全球安全倡议”和“全球文明倡议”，为构建相互尊重、公平正义、互利合作的新型国际关系，确保地区安全、稳定、发展与繁荣做出更大贡献。白俄罗斯正式加入上海合作组织为其发展注入了新的动

力，上合组织也为中白两国加强战略沟通与协调提供了新的平台。

金砖国家是塑造国际格局的重要力量。中方坚定支持白方同金砖国家的合作。中白相互尊重主权、安全、发展利益，视对方为重要合作伙伴，共谋务实合作，主张加强以世贸组织为核心的多边贸易体制，推动国际金融货币体系改革，完善全球经济治理，积极参与金砖国家治理研讨会、人文交流论坛、妇女创新大赛等活动，促进不同文明之间的相互理解和学习，维护国际公平正义，在重大国际和地区问题上恢复正义，不断增强新兴国家和发展中国家的发言权和影响力，共同成为捍卫和平的稳定力量、全球治理的建设性力量、文明学习的推动力量，携手构建人类命运共同体。

您对白俄罗斯的第一印象如何？作为外交使团团长，您的近期计划是什么？

担任中国第十任驻白俄罗斯共和国大使，我深感荣幸，也深感责任重大。虽然履新不到半个月，但我已经感受到白俄罗斯政府和人民的热情好客和友好，感受到中白两国对双边关系的同等重视。我要向长期支持中白关系发展的白俄罗斯各界朋友表示衷心感谢。

白俄罗斯以其美丽的风景、勤劳善良的人民和多姿多彩的文化而闻名于世。白俄罗斯有句谚语：“树靠根支撑，人靠朋友支撑”。为了中白友谊，我来到了白俄罗斯，打算全身心地投入到工作中，尽快了解当地的风土人情。我期待与白俄罗斯各界代表广泛交流，希望建立友谊，开展富有成效的合作。中国驻白俄罗斯大使馆愿与中白两国各界代表一道，扎实推进两国领导人达成的重要共识的落实，为深化中白关系和各领域合作不懈努力，不断造福两国人民，共同谱写中白全天候、全方位战略合作伙伴关系的历史新篇章。

我们衷心祝贺伟大国家的盛大节日，祝愿繁荣、安康和新的胜利！

尼古拉·利特维诺夫

DISCOVERY OF THE NEW MEDICAL PUBLICIST

发现新的医学 主题发布者



古尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚博士出生于伊朗德黑兰。他的父亲古尔班尼贾德-古尚是伊朗一位受人尊敬的公众人物和军事家。他还是马克西姆-高尔基的小说《马特维-科热米亚金的一生》的波斯语译者。古门博士长期生活在白俄罗斯。他毕业于格罗德诺国立医科大学。他的专业是神经外科。他曾在共和国神经学和神经外科中心工作，现在是尼古拉-亚历山大罗夫俄罗斯肿瘤学和医学放射学研究中心肿瘤（神经外科）部门的研究员。他还在白俄罗斯国立医科大学保健人员高级培训和再培训学院神经学和神经外科系任教。古门博士是白俄罗斯共和国伊朗人友谊之家的副主席。有时，优秀文学作品的分量和权威性取决于艺术语言与其他公共和社会生活领域之间的联系。我国的博物馆非常了解这一点。这就是为什么在热情好客的文学博物馆的平台上，经常会出现来自不同科学领域的科学家，以及针对我们的现实。雅库布-科拉斯国家文学和纪念博物馆举办了新版《兹维亚兹达》的推介会。感兴趣的读者前来与《知识的幻觉，或如何不成为疾病的人质》一书的作者古

尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚博士会面。文学博物馆被选为此次活动的地点并非偶然，因为在这里可以就人与医学的关系，就如何保护我们的健康免受各种有效的外部影响进行详细交流。白俄罗斯人民作曲家雅库布-科拉斯一生都与这一重要行业的代表们保持着良好的关系。博物馆科学和教育部门负责人奥尔加-诺沃日洛娃这样说道：“应该指出的是，与他同时代的最好的医生--达尼拉-马尔科夫、谢尔盖-利奥兰采维奇、戴维-阿布拉莫维奇、米利卡-达什克维奇、尼古拉-博布里克、鲍里斯-特鲁塞维奇等人--都参与了这位民族诗人的健康工作。科拉斯对他们感激不尽，为他们献诗，赠送题有赠言的书籍。2020年，雅库布-科拉斯写给波黑卫生部长伊万-阿尼西莫维奇-因萨罗夫的信件手稿充实了博物馆的资金，这些



手稿由他的女儿纳塔利娅-伊万诺夫娜移交给博物馆。康斯坦丁-米哈伊洛维奇在给高官的信件和呼吁中没有为自己呼吁，而是要求帮助医生。为了表达谢意，雅库布-科拉斯赠送给医生诗歌和书，并在书上题词。例如，他送给大卫-阿布拉莫维奇医生一首诗《Rybakova Hata》。这位人民诗人的“医学”亲笔签名被保存了下来：致亲爱的尼古拉-伊万诺维奇-博布里克，一位感激的病人的纪念。雅各布-科拉斯，1955年3月7日。这个签名献给拯救了科拉斯、延长了他一段时间生命的外科医生。科拉斯在与白俄罗斯民间歌手的生活记录者马克西姆-卢扎宁的谈话中经常提到他对医学的兴趣以及与医生的关系。康斯坦丁-米哈伊洛维奇的许多信件都以健康为主题。特别是在他与翻译家谢尔盖-戈罗杰茨基和皮奥特尔-谢米宁的通信中。科拉斯故居馆长伊琳娜-弗拉基米罗夫娜-马蒂亚斯致欢迎词，为在博物

Dr. Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang was born in Tehran (Iran). His father, Gushang Ghorbannijad, is an authoritative public and military figure in this country. He is also a translator of Maxim Gorky's novel *The Life of Matvey Kozhemyakin* into Farsi. Dr. Gumen has been living in Belarus for a long time. He graduated from the Grodno State Medical University. His specialty is neurosurgery. He worked at the Republican Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and is currently a research fellow at the Oncology (Neurosurgery) Department of the Republican Scientific and Practical Centre for Oncology and Medical Radiology named after Nikolai Aleksandrov. He also teaches at the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery of the Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Healthcare Personnel of the Belarusian State Medical University. Dr. Gumen is the Deputy Chairman of the Iranian House of Friendship in the Republic of Belarus.

...Sometimes the weight and authority of belles-lettres depends on the contact of artistic words and other spheres of public and social life. This is also well understood in the museum environment of our country. Therefore, scientists from various fields of science and publicists who address our reality often come to the sites of hospitable literary museums...

A presentation of a new publication from Zvyazda was held at the State Literary and Memorial Museum of Yakub Kolas. Interested readers came to meet with the author of the book *The Illusion of Knowledge, or How Not to Become a Hostage to Disease* Dr. Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang.

The venue for the event, for a detailed conversation about the relationship between man and medicine, about how to protect our health from various effective external influences, was not accidentally chosen in the Literary Museum. The national poet of Belarus Yakub Kolas was friends with representatives of this most important profession throughout his life. One of the museum employees, the Head of the Scientific and Educational Department, Olga Novozhilova, says the following, "... It should be noted that the best doctors, his contemporaries — Danila Markov, Sergei Liorantsevich, David Abramovich, Militsa Dashkevich, Nikolai Bobrik, Boris Trusevich and others, took care of the health of the people's poet. Kolas was immensely grateful to them, dedicated poems, donated books with dedications... In 2020, the museum's funds were replenished with manuscripts of letters from Yakub Kolas to the Minister of Health of the BSSR Ivan Anisimovich Insarov, which were donated to the museum by his daughter Natalya Ivanovna, in letters and appeals to a high official, Konstantin Mikhailovich does not ask for himself, he asks to help the doctors themselves!.. As a token of gratitude, Yakub Kolas gave the doctors poems and books with dedications. For example, he presented the poem *The Fisherman's Hut* to Doctor David Abramovich... The following 'medical' autograph of the national poet has also been preserved, "To dear Nikolai Ivanovich Bobrik, as a keepsake from a grateful patient. Yakub Kolas. March 7th, 1955." This signature to the surgeon who saved the poet extended his life for a certain period of time (at a collection of his works)..." Kolas often mentioned his medical interests and relationships with doctors in conversations with Maksim Luzhanin, the chronicler of the life of the Belarusian national poet. The topic of health is in many of Konstantin Mikhailovich's letters. In particular, in his correspondence with Russian translators Sergei Gorodetsky and Pyotr Semin.

The tone of the conversation at the presentation, which took place in the museum, was set by the welcoming speech of the Director of the Kolasovsky House, Irina Vladimirovna Matyas. The head of the educational institution mentioned that the museum is always wide open to all curious people. And the promotion of a good book is one of the priorities in its activities. And the host of the event was a well-known television journalist in the country,

an announcer of the National Television of Belarus, Yekaterina Tumas-Tishkevich, who also works as a writing journalist, who has repeatedly done the most distinctive interviews with the author of the book (some of them are also included in the book *The Illusion of Knowledge...*). Yekaterina noted the scale of the author's personality, his generativity, and his ability to discover new thematic areas. Perhaps that is why this book appeared as a result of Dr. Gumen's appearances in print, primarily in publications related to the Publishing House, such as the parliamentary and government newspaper *Zvyazda*, the online publication *zviazda.by*, and the magazines *Alesya* and *Belarus*. Journalist Yelena Kravets prepared literally dozens of interviews with the author of the publication. Most of them formed the basis

of the book. Thanks to the help of his colleagues in preparing publications, Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang managed to build such a trusting format of communication with the readership over the years of his cooperation with *Zvyazda* that his publications attract the greatest attention, traffic on various resources, readers are drawn to them on social media, and they have been noticed literally all over the world (the texts of the experienced medical



speaker are published in Belarusian, Russian, English, and Chinese). Judge by the titles of some of the materials: *Why Men Differ from Women at the Level of Physiology and Psychology; If You Want to Be Young, Beautiful and Healthy, Don't Be Nervous; Move More, Think More: How Not to Age Prematurely; Why Do We Lie and is Our Deception Really Necessary?; Can Autism Be Cured?; Love. Just a Play of Hormones or a Great Feeling?; Why are We Easy to Deceive? How Can We Agree to Something We Don't Really Need?; How Much Do We Use Our Brain And Why Is It Difficult For Us To Think, What Influences Our Intelligence and What Erroneous Conclusions Have Led to Tragedies?; Mistakes Our Brain Makes. Can They Be Corrected?...*

Many kind words about the journalistic activity of Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang were said at a meeting in the Kolas House by the Director — Editor-in-Chief of the *Zvyazda* Publishing House, Chairman of the Union of Writers of Belarus Ales Karlyukevich, who called the doctor and publicist one of the most active authors of the *Zvyazda* newspaper, a well-known organiser of economic life in the Belarusian capital, in the Minsk Region, former head of party bodies, state enterprises Nikolai Zhuravsky, granddaughter of the national poet of Belarus Yakub Kolas and classic of Belarusian children's literature Yanka Maur Maria Mikhailovna Mitskevich... Maria Mikhailovna drew attention to the friendship of Kolas with scientists, was glad that this is becoming a tradition in the Kolas House today — membership of the



馆举行的介绍会定下了基调。教育机构负责人表示，博物馆始终向所有好奇者敞开大门。推广好书是其活动的重点之一。本次活动的主持人是白俄罗斯国家电视台播音员、著名电视记者叶卡捷琳娜-图玛斯-季什凯维奇，她同时也是一名写作记者，曾对该书作者进行过一次别开生面的采访（其中一些还被收录在《知识的幻觉》一书中）。凯瑟琳注意到了作者的个性、他的创造力、他开拓新领域的 ability。也许正因为如此，这本书才会因古门博士的演讲而出现在报刊上，首先是与出版社有关的出版物——议会和政府报纸《星星》、网站 *zviazda.by*、杂志《Alesya》和《白俄罗斯》。记者 Elena Kravets 对作者进行了数十次采访。这些访谈主要构成了本书的基础。古尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚在与“星星”公司合作的这些年里，多亏了同事们在出版物编写方面的帮助，才得以与读者建立起如此值得信赖的交流形式，以至于他的出版物在各种资源上吸引了最多的关注和流量，读者在社交网络上接触到了这些出版物，而且这些出版物实际上在世界各地都受到了关注（这位经验丰富的医学演讲家的文章以白俄罗斯语、俄语、英语和中文出版）。从一些材料的标题来看：“为什么男人在生理和心理层面与女人不同”；“如果你想年轻、美丽和健康，就不要紧张”；“多动多想：如何不提前变老”；“我们为什么要欺骗，我们的欺骗有必要吗？”；“自闭症可以治愈吗？”；“爱情。只是荷尔蒙的游戏，还是一种伟大的感情？”；“为什么我们容易受骗？为什么我们能同意一些我们并不真正需要的东西？”；“我们的大脑被开发了百分之多少？为什么我们会思考困难？”；“是什么影响了我们的智力，又是什么错误的结论导致了悲剧？”；“我们大脑所犯的 error。它们可以修复吗？”

在“科拉斯故居”的会议上，“星星”出版社社长兼总编辑、白俄罗斯作家联盟主席阿列克斯-卡尔留克维奇对戈巴尼贾德-古门-古尚的新闻活动给予了高度评价，称其为“星星”报最活跃的作者之一；尼古拉-茹拉夫斯基，白俄罗斯首都和明斯克地区著名的经济生活组织者，前党机构和国营企业领导人；尼古拉-茹拉夫斯基，白俄罗斯人民作家雅库布-科拉斯的孙

女。玛丽亚-米哈伊洛芙娜提请大家注意“科拉斯”与科学家的友谊，并欣喜地指出这已成为“科拉斯故居”今天的传统--博物馆的成员中不乏有趣的科学家、生活各领域的研究人员。博物馆工作人员纳塔利娅-阿达莫维奇、诗人罗格内德-马拉霍夫斯基、“科学书籍”书店店长奥尔加-格卢霍夫斯卡娅参加了科普书籍庆祝活动。古尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚是白俄罗斯记者联盟成员。在该书的首发式上，他被授予了该创作联盟的荣誉证书，以表彰他在国家媒体上积极宣传保护人类健康这一主题。古尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚的文学和新闻活动在俄罗斯也受到了关注--最近他被纳为俄罗斯作家联盟成员。

知识的幻觉的演讲表明，这种性质的文学作品并不多。一本书既要有鲜明的艺术情节，又要有对生活的思考，有时还要有艰深的主题领域，这样才能拓宽读者的思维，让我们有能力与各种时代病进行艰难的对抗。

顺便提一下，《知识的幻觉，或如何不成为疾病的人质》一书现在在全国所有“贝尔克尼加”股份公司书店有售，在明斯克的“科学书籍”书店也有售，地址是：独立大街72号。在阅读与古尔班尼贾德-古门-古尚博士的对话集，以及与作者就养生的好处、生活的一般问题进行的论述，是一段美好的时光！

我们请“星星”出版社社长兼主编阿列西-卡尔柳克维奇就科拉斯博物馆的活动发表评论。他是这样说的：“我们坚持不懈地努力在星星出版社图书组的工作中发展新闻方向。顺便说一句，这并不是《知识的幻觉》一书作者第一次向图书体现创作潜力发出呼吁。早些时候，我们出版了《古门医生的诀窍》一书，并成功地向图书馆和普通读者发行和销售了该书。出版社还出版了医学博士阿诺德-斯梅扬诺维奇、弗拉德连-普斯托沃伊滕科、白俄罗斯著名肿瘤学家奥尔加-米奇科、理疗师叶甫盖尼-舍梅科的书籍。在白俄罗斯的图书出版界，医学学科不仅应通过科学专著，而且应通过让读者了解科学宣传、科学普及类图书而占据有价值的地位。米哈伊尔-格尔契克描写白俄罗斯肿瘤学家，特别是著名的博罗夫利亚尼肿瘤研究所所长尼古拉-亚历山德罗夫的小说曾引起读者的广泛关注。”

康斯坦丁·拉杜特科

摄影：叶利扎韦塔·戈洛德

museum with interesting scientists, researchers in various fields of life... Many well-known personalities in the Kolas House and in the cultural and educational environment in general took part in this holiday of scientific and journalistic books, such as the museum worker Natalia Adamovich, poet Rogned Malakhovsky, Director of the Akademkniga bookstore Olga Glukhovskaya... Let us add that Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang is a member of the Belarusian Union of Journalists. At the presentation of the book, he was awarded the Certificate of Honour of this creative union as an active populariser of the topic of protection, defence of human health on the pages of domestic media. The literary and journalistic activity of the Belarusian publicist and doctor was also noticed in Russia, when recently Ghorbannijad Gumen Gushang was accepted as a member of the Union of Writers of Russia.

The presentation of *The Illusion of Knowledge...* showed that there is not much literature of this nature. That a book should bring to the reader both distinctive artistic plots and reflections on life, and sometimes difficult thematic areas in order for thinking to develop more broadly, so that we are effective in the difficult confrontation with various diseases of the time. By the way, now the book *The Illusion of Knowledge, or How Not to Become a Hostage to Disease* can be purchased in all bookstores of Belkniga OJSC throughout the country, as well as in Minsk in the Akademkniga bookstore at the address: 72, Nezavisimosti Avenue. Have a good time in reading the collection of dialogues with Dr. Gorbanijad Gumen Gushang, new discoveries and joint reasoning with the author about health, the merits of taking care of it, in general about life in the world!

...With a request to comment on the event in the Kolas Museum, we turned to the Director — Editor-in-Chief of the Zvyazda Publishing House Ales Karlyukevich. And here is what he noted, “We persistently strive to develop the journalistic direction in the work of

the book group of the Zvyazda Publishing House. By the way, this is not the first book embodiment of the creative potential of the author of the book *The Illusion of Knowledge...* Earlier, we published the collection *Advice from Doctor Gumen* and quite successfully distributed it, sold it to libraries and ordinary readers. The publishing house's assets also include a book by doctors of medical sciences Arnold Smeyanovich, Vladlen Pustovoitenko, a well-known oncologist in Belarus Olga Mychko, physiotherapist Yevgeny Shmerko... Medical topics in book publishing in Belarus should take a worthy, valuable place not only through scientific monographs, but also through familiarising the reader with scientific and journalistic, popular science books. And maybe some of the writers will return to the medical topic. Mikhail Gerchik's novel, dedicated to oncologists of Belarus and, in particular, the famous head of the oncology institute in Borovlyany Nikolai Aleksandrov, once attracted a wide attention from the readers...”

Konstantin Ladutko

Photo by Yelizaveta Golod



KEEP UP WITH THE TIMES

The times are not easy now, one might even say, special. They impose their strict requirements on everyone. But first of all, on those who make decisions, responding to sometimes unexpected challenges. What choice is right, what path is the most optimal — today a lot depends on this in a variety of areas of activity. And how important is professional support! Such, for example, which for most business entities comes from specialists of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Actually, in the past, the BelCCI was a kind of navigator for them, or rather, a good assistant in the contradictory space of foreign trade. It remains so today, when the help of a reliable partner who successfully navigates modern realities is needed more than ever. Initially, back in the Soviet period, we built enterprises that were focused on large markets. Therefore, the foreign economic direction is key for Belarus. Not only a driver of constant economic growth, but also the main tool for replenishing the budget, ensuring social stability of society. This is how it happened and is confirmed by life practice. Indeed, you must agree that the tasks of increasing the export of Belarusian products and developing foreign economic activity of business entities have not been cancelled, despite the changed conditions. The tasks are still relevant and urgent. What is the role of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in solving them? We discussed this with the Chairman of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mikhail Myatlikov.



“What is coming to the forefront today, becoming a priority in the actions of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry? How would you generally formulate its main mission?”

“Historically, almost every country has its own chamber of commerce and industry. The specificity of such organisations is that we provide comprehensive support to our enterprises and promote the development of foreign economic relations. This is the main mission of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the essence of which is defined by the Law ‘On the Chamber of Commerce and Industry’, which is to help enterprises develop foreign economic relations and promote exports.

The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a key link in many business chains. It not only unites representatives of Belarusian business, and today our community unites about three thousand enterprises, on a voluntary basis at that, but also helps them establish strong business ties with foreign partners. Of course, it is a kind of ‘voice’ of entrepreneurs in a dialogue with government authorities, ministries and departments.

The Chamber is the organiser of Belarusian, including national, expositions at major international exhibitions, business visits and forums, B2B meetings and negotiations. It should be noted that in accordance with Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus No. 177 dated May 11, 2018, the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, it is the coordinator of exhibition and fair activities of the

Republic of Belarus in foreign countries. Exporters are supported by issuing certificates for products, in the form of consultations and specific actions in the field of legal support for foreign economic activity, in the protection of trademarks, including in foreign markets, and in many of our other tools.

Of course, to promote the goods and services of Belarusian manufacturers, we actively use the capabilities of our solid international network of partners. We have signed agreements and memorandums of cooperation with national and regional chambers of commerce and industry, associations from more than a hundred countries of the world. These are the organisations that can be relied upon, because we work on the principles of mutual support and assistance. And for enterprises that conduct international business and ensure export, the most valuable thing is precisely the selection of potential partners. And the fact that among such organisations as ours, there is a serious partner community is a great benefit and opportunities that we continue to use. Today, our country has various export support tools: financial, infrastructural in the form of distribution networks and trading houses, administrative. But you can have all these support tools and not get any results. Because everything depends on the person, their competencies, motivation, capabilities and interest. In this regard, for several years now we have been implementing a project that was initially called the 'Export School', and now it is the Export Academy. This is a kind of express course for exporters in the field of financial resource management, marketing activities, legal and tax regulation of export deliveries, customs support and logistics. The modular practice of building the course has proven itself well, the project is very successful. Training at the Export Academy is a kind of investment in human capital, in capable entrepreneurs and managers who are striving for development. Of course, this is not a direct support tool, but it is also very important, so we will continue to develop the project. And we would be interested not only in sharing knowledge, but also in monitoring its implementation at enterprises. We want this project to be as practical as possible. I would like to emphasise: we do not evaluate the effectiveness of our work only by quantity. The main thing is the qualitative component, the results. Therefore, our efforts are aimed at ensuring that the events held by the Chamber are, first of all, practical platforms for concluding business contracts and establishing useful business connections, and that our support is targeted, consistent with the spirit of the times and all the challenges that domestic companies face today."

"The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is probably represented not only throughout the country, but also in the world?"

"Yes, of course. In addition to purely specialised enterprises — Belinterexpo, Belpatentservice, the Business Education Center and the International Arbitration Court — our unitary enterprises are located in each region, plus 28 regional branches. All this makes it possible for business

representatives to be within walking distance of our specialists.

As for business interaction in the world, I can say that the interests of our organisation's members are promoted by 41 representatives of the BelCCI in 33 foreign countries.

The contractual base, as I have already noted, is also quite solid — about a thousand agreements and memorandums with more than a hundred countries."

"How is the work of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised with enterprises that are members of the Chamber?"

"The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the largest business community in the country, which unites more than 2,600 business entities representing the entire spectrum of Belarusian business: from individual entrepreneurs to large enterprises and holdings in various fields of activity.

The ways and reasons that bring businesses to the BelCCI are varied. For many, the Chamber is an assistant on the path to increasing business activity, an adviser on complex issues of doing business and, above all, foreign economic activity. For others, these are popular services, of which the BelCCI offers more than 100 types. Members of the Chamber have access to a discount on a number of services, and some opportunities are provided completely free of charge, on account of the membership fee, which, by the way, is small and plays more of a 'club', unifying and disciplining role. In a word, the status of membership in the BelCCI is a confirmation of reliability, significance, belonging to an internationally recognised community.

Today, the Chamber does not set the main goal of increasing the membership base by any means. We only propose to unite the efforts of all those who ultimately benefit from it. And analyzing the feedback, we see that for the overwhelming majority, membership in the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is useful, profitable and prestigious. This is a kind of confirmation of the high status of the enterprise. After all, membership in the Chamber of Commerce and Industry is valued throughout the world as an indicator of business stability.

Moreover, in addition to the status of a member of the BelCCI, an enterprise can also obtain the status of a bona fide partner. Since 2020, the Chamber has been maintaining the Register of Bona Fide Partners — an online list of business entities of the Republic of Belarus, official information about which indicates their bona fide status as partners for entrepreneurial activity. Both in Belarus and abroad. Inclusion in the register is an opportunity available exclusively to members of the BelCCI, free of charge at that.

It is obvious that for most business entities the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is an assistant on the path to increasing business activity, an adviser on complex issues of doing business. And all because the areas of our activity are focused on the practical needs of enterprises and entrepreneurs.

By the way, this is why we have modernised our approaches to membership in the BelCCI since this year. Until recently, all members of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry had access to the same list of benefits, regardless of the scale of business, the fee paid, and the existing needs. Thus, the opportunities received with the status of 'Member of the BelCCI' were not clearly structured and, one might say, 'impersonal', based on standard services provided by chambers of commerce and industry.

Now, members of the Chamber are offered two packages to choose from – Standard and Premium – depending on their capabilities, desires and needs. The Standard package includes a basic list of benefits, while the Premium package includes an extended list. Each member of the BelCCI can independently choose the amount of membership benefits to receive.

The new benefit packages include favorable conditions for receiving currently relevant services. This includes business education, information and PR support, business contacts... But first and foremost, this is legal support, which is especially important in today's business realities."

"Thus, the new format of the benefits of membership in the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is directly related to the current difficult conditions that have made it more difficult for exporters to do business?"

"The Chamber lives the life that Belarusian enterprises live. Therefore, if we talk about communication, it is rather in new types of business support that we provide. Indeed, the current upheavals in the global market dictate new rules to the business community. And today, the fulfillment of obligations directly depends on the quality of the legal work of enterprises. Taking into account the accumulated experience in the field of legal support for foreign economic activity, our specialists regularly provide services for drafting and developing contracts with foreign partners, consulting and checking foreign counterparties.

It is obvious that a competently drafted agreement is a guarantee of successful and profitable foreign economic activity. We actively help members of the BelCCI to conduct an examination of draft foreign economic agreements, prepare proposals on their individual terms, which allows avoiding accidents and unplanned situations in the future.

"It turns out that the closest market to us today is the EAEU. Especially since Belarus is one of the founding countries of the Union. How do you see the work to increase the volume of Belarusian exports in this market?"

"It is worth noting that mutual trade between the EAEU member states increased by 4.7% (\$88.7 billion) in 2023. And the volume of mutual trade in the union has almost doubled over the past 10 years.

Import substitution and development of domestic technologies is one of the priority areas of cooperation among members of the Eurasian Economic Union. I believe that the introduction of a new mechanism for financial support

of industrial cooperation in the EAEU this year will give a significant impetus to the development of projects involving Belarusian enterprises.

It is obvious that Russia has always been and remains the key trade and economic partner of Belarus in the EAEU. Effective interaction at the interregional level between our countries allowed domestic enterprises to reorient foreign trade flows from unfriendly countries to more promising directions in the Russian Federation. According to the results of 2023, the volume of mutual trade between the two countries reached a record high — about 53 billion dollars. And in the first eight months of 2024, trade turnover amounted to more than 34 billion US dollars with a growth rate of 108.2%.

The nature of Belarusian-Russian cooperation in key sectors of the economy is clearly reflected by the fact that last year Belarus acted as a partner country of the INNOPROM International Industrial Exhibition in Yekaterinburg, and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry became the organiser of the national exposition of the Republic of Belarus and B2B negotiations between representatives of Belarusian and Russian enterprises within the framework of this event.

I am confident that the development of foreign trade cooperation and deepening economic integration with the Russian Federation will remain strategically important for Belarus in the near future. At the same time, the reserves for increasing exports and, in general, the volume of mutual trade between our countries are far from exhausted. I would like to note that remote regions of the Russian Federation, such as the Far East and Siberia, have significant untapped potential for increasing the volume of export deliveries, despite the complexity of transport logistics.

It is worth mentioning that Kazakhstan is among the top ten trading partners of Belarus in terms of domestic exports and is the second most important among the EAEU member states. In 2023, the trade turnover between the two countries reached \$912.5 million. One of the drivers of the development of bilateral economic ties is cooperation in the industrial field, primarily the creation of joint ventures and assembly plants in Kazakhstan. The following examples are well known: since 2009, the Kostanay enterprise AgromashHolding has been producing Essil brand harvesters together with Gomselmash, and in the city of Semey, a number of models of the Belarus wheeled tractor are assembled at the SemAZ facilities in partnership with the Minsk Tractor Works. A promising area for strengthening bilateral trade is the expansion of production localization and entering the markets of third countries with jointly produced products. A promising task for domestic exporters is the promotion of light industry products, furniture, cosmetics, household chemicals and other consumer goods on the Kazakhstan market.

In 2022, Belarus and Armenia increased their mutual trade turnover by 1.5 times, approaching 200 million US dollars. Armenia's trade turnover with the CIS countries for 11 months of 2023 amounted to more than \$6.7 billion, an increase of 39.3% compared to the same period of the



previous year. Armenia's largest foreign trade partners are Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. In our bilateral trade, growth was achieved due to an increase in the volumes of both Belarusian and Armenian exports. Speaking about the export potential, Armenia is interested in construction services and the implementation of joint projects in the housing and communal services sector, in particular, the modernisation of the elevator industry. In 2019, Mogilevliftmash OJSC and the Armenian company Rafelgrig CJSC signed a memorandum on the establishment of a joint venture; cooperation was started, among other things, for joint participation in a comprehensive programme for the modernisation of the elevator industry in Yerevan (about 4 thousand elevators are subject to modernisation). In 2022, 467 units of elevator equipment were exported. In 2023, almost twice as many.

Despite the fact that Uzbekistan is an observer in the EAEU, in 2022 the volume of mutual trade with this country exceeded 500 million US dollars, which is almost 70% more than the year before. For Belarus, Uzbekistan has significant potential for further increasing the supply of meat and dairy products, consumer goods, wood processing products, pharmaceuticals, etc. It is not for nothing that domestic enterprises are working to expand the network of trading houses in Uzbekistan. A promising area is the production of Belarusian agricultural machinery with the localization of production of a number of components, as well as cooperation projects in the textile and food industries. It is also worth noting the importance for the development of bilateral relations of the First and Second Belarusian-Uzbek Women's Business Forums, which were held, respectively, last year in Minsk, this year in Tashkent.

Certainly, a promising platform for business circles to discuss the possibilities of interaction in the sphere of industrial cooperation are contact and cooperation exchanges, business forums and business councils organised by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with the chambers of commerce and industry of the EAEU member states. For example, the Belarusian-Russian Business Council and the Belarusian-Kazakhstan Business Council have been created and are actively functioning. However, the Belarusian-Uzbek Business Council is also quite active."

"And how are things going with the promotion of Belarusian goods to the markets of the far-arc countries? Do you see interest in Belarusian business in these countries?"

"Increased attention to the topic of exports to the countries of the 'far arc' is due, first of all, to the need to strengthen our positions in the markets of friendly countries. A number of countries in the region of Southeast Asia and Africa have demonstrated consistent economic growth over the past few years, are actively modernising their industry and agriculture, and are implementing large-scale infrastructure projects in the road transport, mining and energy sectors. All this creates a natural demand for goods and services of Belarusian exports.

Belarus has an export-oriented economy, the activities of not only the flagships of the domestic industry, but also many other enterprises are focused on foreign sales markets. In the context of sanctions restrictions, it is important to expand export opportunities and diversify the geography of supplies as much as possible. As a result of the 'export maneuver' implemented in 2022, Belarusian enterprises managed to significantly increase the supply of goods to Russia and



other EAEU countries, which now account for over 60% of Belarus's total exports. At present, it is important not only to gain a foothold in the developed markets, maintaining the share of domestic products in them in the future, but also to consistently develop no less promising, but more complex in terms of logistics and communication directions — the countries of the 'far arc'.

And if we talk about reserves in this area, then these are free trade zone agreements, thanks to which preferential conditions are formed (through zeroing or reducing customs duties) for access of goods to foreign markets. Currently, the EAEU is in the active phase of negotiations on the creation of free trade zones with such significant economic partners as the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Mongolia. I would like to note that the beginning of negotiations is preceded by painstaking large-scale preparatory work of experts, based on the results of which the EAEU member countries, based on a comprehensive assessment, determine the economic benefits of concluding such agreements with a particular partner.

Other forms of support, such as legal assistance on foreign economic activity, holding exhibitions and fairs, organising business visits — the BelCCI does all this with an emphasis on the countries of the 'far arc'.

Important reference points in the international activities of the BelCCI on the 'far arc' are partner organisations from among foreign chambers of commerce and industry, the institute of representatives of the BelCCI abroad, as well as business councils. For example, within the framework of the state visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko to the Republic of Zimbabwe, the BelCCI, in cooperation with the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, organised a visit of the delegation of Belarusian business circles to Zimbabwe and held the second Zimbabwe-Belarus Business Forum. The heads of 33 leading domestic enterprises were able to hold negotiations on cooperation in the field of mechanical engineering, light industry, pharmaceuticals, logistics, meat and dairy industry. On April 30th this year, the Belarusian Chamber of

Commerce and Industry together with the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce organised the Egyptian-Belarusian Business Forum as part of the visit of the government delegation headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Belarus Roman Golovchenko to Egypt, which became a very notable event of the busy business programme of the Belarusian delegation in Egypt. Over the course of two days, Belarusian business representatives actively discussed the possibilities of strengthening and developing partnerships with Egyptian companies in the framework of B2B negotiations and at production sites.

On June 3rd, 2024, as part of the official visit of the President of the Republic of Belarus to Mongolia, the BelCCI, in cooperation with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Mongolia, held the Mongolia-Belarus Business Forum. Members of the Belarusian business delegation — more than 60 representatives of 40 enterprises from the fields of mechanical engineering, agriculture, food industry, science and banking services — held personal meetings and direct B2B negotiations on specific areas of partnership with the Mongolian side.

As part of the exposition of the Republic of Belarus at the FIA International Industrial Exhibition in June 2023 in Algiers, in close cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Algeria, the Algerian-Belarusian Forum was held with the participation of representatives of the business circles of the two countries. The event became a platform for meetings and negotiations, during which the terms of cooperation were discussed, including the export of products, scientific and technical developments and services to the Algerian market.

This is how the far arc becomes closer."

"Why does the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry need such a tool as business councils? With which countries have we already created similar structures? Are new ones planned?"

"The councils are created for direct contacts between the business circles of Belarus and other countries. Any direct contact allows for prompt and unintermediated discussion of the development of trade and economic relations and, if necessary, for developing proposals for their solution. In addition, the business council is a useful source of information necessary for the business community. Representatives of government agencies, the diplomatic corps, and business speak at meetings at the invitation of the chambers of commerce and industry. The council platform allows for the demonstration and presentation of projects aimed at promoting Belarusian goods and services to foreign markets. A business council is a generally accepted instrument for supporting international business relations. First of all, it is a discussion platform for solving various tasks and problems. A business council is also an opportunity for businesses to convey existing proposals to government agencies and speed up the process of implementing business ideas, and an important source of information necessary for business

circles for the successful implementation of joint projects, overcoming barriers to expanding trade and economic ties. In many countries, such councils are created on the initiative of businesses, whose authoritative representatives head them, and the chamber of commerce and industry acts as a platform for discussing current problems of business people. An important factor in making a decision to establish a business council is the availability of a potential business base. The BelCCI is ready to discuss and, if possible, resolve current issues of business people in cooperation with partners from abroad, using the platform of 24 business councils for this purpose. However, given the political situation, the specifics of the work of individual partners, their capabilities and role in the host country, geographical remoteness and other factors, these platforms are not yet used to their full extent; their meetings, unfortunately, are episodic.

Currently, the BelCCI, taking into account many factors, plans to change the work of business councils. In particular, on the eve of the meeting of the business council, the issue of the need to hold a meeting of its Belarusian part in the BelCCI, including with the participation of officials assigned from state bodies, will be considered. Negotiations with authoritative heads of Belarusian enterprises on the possibility of heading the business council will also be continued.

Today, it is important to adapt the work of business councils created under the auspices of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in cooperation with foreign partner organisations to take into account global challenges. I would like to express my conviction that the initiative to create new business councils and expand the geography of cooperation should be based on the interests of business, taking into account the current situation. At the same time, we are ready and open to proposals from our partners to create business councils in those countries where we have not yet reached such a level of interaction, **such as** with the partner countries of the Republic of Belarus in the EAEU and the CIS.”

“Who can become a representative of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry abroad? What functions do these people perform? Will the Chamber expand its staff of representatives?”

“A good representative abroad is at least half the success of any ambitious export project. I would say it this way: it is both a manager and a diplomat in one person. Moreover, on a voluntary basis.

In essence, the institution of representatives of the BelCCI abroad implies that this is a person holding a prominent social position, who has the necessary personal qualities and capabilities to perform the tasks and functions assigned to him/her on a self-financing basis. The tasks, functions, procedure for organising activities, rights and obligations of the representative of the BelCCI abroad are determined by the relevant regulatory document. The representative provides practical assistance to the BelCCI and Belarusian business entities in representing and protecting their

interests in matters of implementing foreign economic activity in the host country, maintains working contacts with business councils and other associations of entrepreneurs and partner organisations of the BelCCI in the host country, promoting the development of cooperation with the Republic of Belarus, including with diplomatic missions, trade representatives and other Belarusian organisations in the host country, and also performs other functions in accordance with the tasks assigned to him/her.

Do we see the need to expand the circle of representatives? It would probably be strange if we did not. Of course, time makes us understand that in order to expand and strengthen foreign economic relations of business entities with foreign partners, the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will continue to work to increase the pool of representatives abroad to promote Belarusian exports.

For further development of interregional cooperation, including taking into account the decisions of the Government, we primarily focus on developing the network of representatives of the BelCCI in the regions of the Russian Federation. Also, the BelCCI sees the CIS countries (Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), the countries of Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Indonesia) as priority areas for developing the network of representatives abroad; an additional representative would also be useful in China. And, naturally, in the countries of the ‘far arc’ (Brazil, Egypt, Algeria, Oman).”

“The International Arbitration Court at the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is part of the system of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. What cases does it hear?”

“Civil disputes between any legal entities arising in the course of foreign trade and other types of international economic relations may be referred to the International Arbitration Court at the BelCCI, subject to an arbitration agreement. In this case, the location or place of residence of at least one of them is outside the Republic of Belarus. The International Arbitration Court also considers other economic cases if the agreement of the parties provides for the transfer of the dispute to the international arbitration court for resolution and if this is not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

Recently, the composition of plaintiffs and defendants has changed. For example, the number of cases involving entities from the Baltic States, Poland, Germany, France and other Western European countries has significantly decreased. At the same time, the number of cases involving entities from Russia and China has increased accordingly.”

“In general, what is important about the current year for the Chamber’s activities? What events in the BelCCI calendar should be highlighted?”

“Among the complex of events of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as a rule, special attention is always

paid to exhibition events, within the framework of which domestic enterprises and companies present products, services and goods at international forums. In particular, they demonstrate the socio-cultural and tourist potential of Belarus, introducing the sights and rich heritage of our country.

It should be noted that under the auspices of Belinterexpo Exhibition Unitary Enterprise, specialising in the organisation and holding of international exhibition events, from February 19th to 23rd in Dubai, the **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** exposition was widely presented as part of the largest food and beverage exhibition **Gulfood**, which brought together participants from 127 countries. The concept of the Belarusian exposition was designed in the image of the Kossovo Castle, a historical architectural site of Belarus popular among guests and tourists.

Of particular importance was the preparation and organisation in May of the largest national exposition of the Republic of Belarus, designed in the style of Mir Castle, at the **CaspianAgro** and **InterFood** exhibitions in Baku, which was visited by the President of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko and the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

A landmark event was the participation of Belarus in the main industrial exhibition of the Russian Federation, **INNOPROM**, which was held from July 8th to 11th in Yekaterinburg. The Belarusian exposition **Made in Belarus** was the second largest at the exhibition forum after the pavilion of the official partner country — the United Arab Emirates.

Another priority event this year is the organisation of a national exposition within the framework of the **7th China International Import Expo**, which will be held from November 5th to 10th in Shanghai. The style-forming elements of the national Belarusian pavilion will be iconic objects of flora and fauna of the legendary Belovezhskaya Pushcha natural park, emphasising its environmental friendliness and uniqueness, taking into account the global environmental agenda and the Year of Quality declared by the President of the Republic of Belarus.

An important direction was the development of cooperation with new regions and countries. Thus, for the first time, Belarusian enterprises were presented at the **DJAZAGRO** food industry exhibition in Algeria in April of this year.

In May, the **Belarus. The Taste of Nature** exposition was also presented for the first time in Saudi Arabia at the **Saudi Food Show** food and beverage exhibition. The exhibition is the most global after Gulfood in the Middle East and brought together more than 1,000 major food industry companies from 97 countries on one exhibition site.

After a long break, the Belarusian exposition was again presented within the framework of the international exhibition of oil, gas, refining and petrochemicals **Iran Oil Show 2024**, which took place in Tehran.

A promising direction is the African region, which demonstrates confident dynamics in the development of bilateral relations with the Republic of Belarus. This year



we have already taken part in a number of key exhibitions in the region, including **Zimbabwe International Trade Fair** in Bulawayo, the Republic of Zimbabwe, **Africa's Big 7** in Johannesburg, the Republic of South Africa, **FILDA** in Luanda, the Republic of Angola, and **MINEXPO Africa** in Dar es Salaam, the Republic of Tanzania.

Active work is being carried out in terms of planning and preparing Belarusian expositions within the framework of exhibition events in the regions of the People's Republic of China in order to expand the geography of Belarus' representation and the interests of our country's business in the Chinese market. For example, this year, Belarusian expositions were organised at such major international exhibitions as **Sial** in Shanghai (in May), **China-Eurasia Expo** Urumqi, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (in June) and **Food Expo** in Hong Kong (in August).

"To what extent does participation in international exhibitions allow Belarusian business entities to expand sales markets for their products, find partners and investors for possible implementation of joint projects? Could you give examples in this regard?"

"Certainly, the participation of Belarusian representatives in international exhibitions determines the image of enterprises and companies, supported by recorded contacts and agreements with foreign partners. Within the framework of such exhibitions, we plan in advance a set of business events for their Belarusian participants with the opportunity to directly participate in B2B negotiations and business meetings based on the country in which the exhibition is held and the conditions of the business environment in the region. In January-September of this year, we have already participated in 20 exhibition events in 14 countries. As a result, the exhibiting enterprises concluded more than 50 cooperation documents: commercial contracts, agreements, memorandums, agreements for a total of about 1.4 billion Belarusian rubles.

It should be noted that at present, 246 enterprises and organisations have taken part in exhibitions and expositions organised abroad.



In essence, each exhibition is an individual project for the enterprise participating in it. The year continues and large-scale events are ahead, the results of which will allow for a final analysis. Among the successful examples of comprehensive work in the exhibition sphere is the official registration in the State Register of the unique logo of collective exhibitions **Made in Belarus**, the copyright holder of which is the unitary enterprise Belinterexpo.”

“Today, interaction with business partners is becoming impossible without modern digital tools. How widely are they used in the activities of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?”

“Conducting online meetings, news feeds in social media and messengers, relevant and up-to-date information on the websites of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry organisations — all this is actively used today for information interaction with business partners. These are already familiar and everyday practices that have become mandatory in the modern world of communications and business relationships.

Among the specific digital tools actively used by our partners, it is necessary to note the service for checking certificates issued by the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry <https://certs.cci.by>. This service allows any interested party both within the Republic of Belarus and abroad to check the fact of issuance of a certificate of origin of goods or a certificate of products (works/services) of own production.

We are developing information systems and moving further along the path of informatisation and digitalisation of our activities. The creation and subsequent improvement of the Digital Chamber is one of the important and priority goals of the development of the BelCCI. Surveys conducted among our business partners show a high demand for the transition to paperless interaction in all aspects of business relations, from electronic applications for services to the provision of results in electronic form in the personal account of our business partner on the BelCCI website.

The Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is steadily and steadily synchronising its efforts in the digital transformation of its activities with the tasks of state policy in the field of informatisation. The infrastructure of electronic digital signatures created by the state, the platform of interdepartmental document flow, the project for the construction of the Single Window for Foreign Trade Activity are the foundation that creates the basis for the effective functioning of the digital environment of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its integration with state information systems.

At the same time, it should be noted that there are constraints slowing down the speed of digital transformation. First of all, these are the current interstate agreements, which so far provide only for paper forms of certificates and documents issued by the BelCCI. Since we are largely focused on relationships related to foreign economic activity, the main efforts are now aimed at resolving issues related to the introduction of mechanisms for digital interaction with partners at the interstate level. First of all, the agenda includes issues of replacing paper certificates of origin with the exchange of information on certificates in electronic form with customs authorities of third countries. Projects are being implemented to organise such interaction with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Azerbaijan. The introduction of these innovations will significantly simplify the mechanism for issuing and using issued certificates of origin. When performing import and export operations, it will not be necessary to provide certificates of origin on paper. Customs authorities of destination countries will receive all the necessary information from the BelCCI information systems. Considering that it will be possible to apply for certificates through the personal account of the enterprise on the BelCCI website, having submitted all the materials in the form of electronic documents along with the application, we will be able to completely transfer all interactions with our business partners to the digital space.

This is the future. And we simply have to keep up with the times.

Vasily Kharitonov

A CAR IS NOT A LUXURY ITEM...

And although someone may still dispute this statement, the reality is that a car has become a part of our lives like never before, becoming almost an obligatory attribute for many



CARS: TODAY AND TOMORROW

Some statistics. At the end of 2022, 2 million 974 thousand 303 passenger cars were privately owned by Belarusian citizens. This is evidenced by data from the National Statistical Committee. As well as the fact that total sales of new passenger cars and light-duty commercial vehicles in July of this year amounted to 4,763 units, which is a record figure for the past three years. For comparison: sales in July 2024 exceeded sales in July last year by more than 2.5 times.



Some will say: they say, there is nothing good in this, because how the burden on the environment is growing. Indeed, you can't argue with this: the abundance of cars does not make the air cleaner, especially in large cities. But this is the reality of our time, in which there must be strict liability for violations of car operating rules, including those requirements that uphold environmental safety standards. The creators of new cars should also advocate for this, because tomorrow will not change the situation radically: the number of cars will grow and it is important that they are based on the most promising technologies with the help of designers.



CARS: TODAY AND TOMORROW



America and even Australia. Sometimes, logistics chains become more complicated due to a number of circumstances, but the established schemes do not become obsolete, as a rule, acceptable conditions are always found.

The Chinese direction is actively establishing itself. Moreover, it is safe to say that in Belarus, the trend for purchasing new cars from China is unrivaled. And at the recent international auto show held in Minsk, Chinese car brands prevailed. There was something to compare with: by class, by shape and, importantly, by price.



What options do citizens of Belarus have when choosing a passenger car for themselves? There is still a local car market where you can choose a vehicle that has already been used, but is still capable of serving its future owner with dignity. Also, numerous intermediaries offer options for delivering cars from various points around the world: from Europe,



CARS: TODAY AND TOMORROW



Of course, Belarusians know the Geely brand best. For the reason that the BelGee joint venture has been successfully operating in the country for many years now: namely, in partnership with this well-known Chinese automobile concern. And recently, the cars that come off the BelGee assembly line are the best-selling in Belarus. There is even a waiting list of several months for certain models. What is important, experts note such a positive fact as an increase in the degree of localisation of Belarusian parts in BelGee cars. This even made it possible to update the name of the models made in Belarus as in their country of origin.



And once again about ecology. As you know, Belarus is one of the countries where electric cars are gaining more and more popularity. And their impact on the environment is practically reduced to zero. Therefore, the state supports interest in this promising direction, stimulating the purchase of electric cars with certain benefits. The infrastructure network for their servicing is also expanding. And scientists from the National Academy of Sciences, designers, engineers, and technologists are working hard to create their own, domestic electric car. It is possible that such a car will be presented at the Minsk International Motor Show next year. In any case, judging by the statements made earlier, such a premiere can be expected. And it will be a real event!

Aleksandr Pimenov

Style. Beauty. Quality



The 48th International Trade Fair for the wholesale of light industry goods "BelTexIndustry -2024", the largest industry event with a 20-year history, was held in Minsk under the main symbol of 2024 — "quality". More than a hundred exhibitors demonstrated their new products.





As you know, this exhibition is held annually and attracts many visitors. After all, this is a unique platform where new products and trends of the upcoming fashion season are demonstrated, all kinds of events are held, topical topics of industry development are discussed, contracts and agreements are concluded. Specialized seminars, business dialogues with the participation of heads of leading enterprises, representatives of trade and the media, company presentations and displays of clothing and footwear collections, as well as much more — this is the rich program that did not leave anyone who visited the administrative building of the National Exhibition Center Belexpo on Pobediteley Avenue these days indifferent. The opening ceremony of the exhibition, as it should be, was solemn. During the exhibition, as Tatyana Lugina, Chairman of the Bellegprom concern, noted during the opening, it is important to discuss the development strategy of the light industry. "The world is dynamic today," she said. — Markets are being freed up, and it is necessary to occupy niches. And in order to be competitive, quality alone is not enough. The issue of price is also important. Therefore, one of our main tasks today is to reduce costs and expenses. Especially in enterprises that are focused on shaft and volume."





Enterprises from Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan were widely represented at the exhibition this year. Enterprises from Uzbekistan also brought their goods. Kamola Gulyamova, a member of the Uztextilprom Association, noted that participation in the event is a good opportunity to deepen partnership relations with Belarus: "Our cooperation is developing dynamically. The Belarusian-Uzbek women's business forums gave a good impetus. We intend to conclude numerous contracts at the exhibition. The interested parties have already held fruitful negotiations. We hope to expand our cooperation. We are interested in the Belarusian market." The performance of the center for artistic creativity of children and youth "Zaleski Dance Design Show" was creative at the grandiose forum, which continued with the presentation of the flagship projects of the Bellegprom concern — "Quality Brands". Among them are "Merch of the First", the concept store "Yes to Home", clothes with state and national symbols, a domestic brand of children's goods, aesthetics of sports - the creation of sportswear, the show "#MYKACHESTVO" with the participation of media personalities of our country and the presentation of brands of the Bellegprom concern. Famous women of the country took to the podium and demonstrated

collections of popular Belarusian brands. They were: the first deputy chairman of the Minsk City Executive Committee, the chairman of Bellegprom, the heads of some media outlets — all of them appeared on the podium as models. The exit of each lady was accompanied by applause. I was also impressed by the display of the joint collection of two leading enterprises of Kyrgyzstan and Belarus and the demonstration of several autumn-winter collections of the new season.

I note that the scenario of the exhibition was built correctly. In 2024, the organizers invited many speakers who are interesting for the professional audience of the exhibition. Immediately after the screenings on the first day, the journalists were able to ask questions to those who were interested in them. Sergey Sysoev, the head of his own fashion brand producing clothes and interior items, was popular. For fashion experts and people who are just interested in fashion topics, this speaker is very interesting and authoritative. Communication with him was certainly useful for the listeners.

— This is not my first time in Minsk, — said Sergey Sysoev. — I really like what Belarusian enterprises are doing. Looking at the collections presented at the exhibition, I stared at the quality of their tailoring. This is a real delight for the eyes. As



a fashion designer, I have been cooperating with Belarusian enterprises for a long time. Just two years ago, I purchased the fabric at the Kamvol enterprise and immediately included it in the autumn-winter collection. In just three days, we sewed a dress. And it made a splash.

The performance of the foreign fashion designer, who is a member of the Association of Haute Couture and pret-a-port of Russia, the international association "Union of Designers", and is also the creator of the SERGEY SYSOEV brand, winner of Fashion TV awards and the Moscow Mayor's Cup, became the highlight of the BTI-2024 exhibition.

The first exhibition day started with an expert dialogue on topical issues of cooperation in the field of light industry, with the participation of representatives of subordinate enterprises, heads of organizations and entrepreneurs from near and far abroad.

It is pleasant to note that this year's exhibition was attended for the first time by representatives of the international light industry exhibition Fashion Style Russia, which unites all branches of light industry and fashion segments: women's, men's, children's clothing and shoes, underwear, fur and



leather, accessories, components for production, services and contract manufacturing. Models by Russian designers Gera Skandal, Sofi sofa, Sanibrand, NAEDINE and NS were presented at the D4 collective stand in Minsk. All of them, determined to communicate openly with like-minded people and fashion connoisseurs, demonstrated their collections on the second day of the exhibition. Some of them are already actively promoted in Russia, and some have yet to declare themselves. A crowd gathered around the podium to get acquainted with the cultural code of Russian collections. Alexandra Sagaeva, Vice President of the Union of Light and Textile Industries of the Russian Federation, made a welcoming speech. She also talked about the designers and the features of their collections. And then the show started. Attention was drawn to a collection of dresses made from the famous Orenburg down shawls, as well as children's brands. After that, we got acquainted with the collections of Uzbek designers of the Uzbekstilprom profile association. The Dobrusha Porcelain Factory also presented new items. By the way, it produces about 22 million units per year. The brand "Porcelain of White Russia" is well known in our country and abroad. About 70 percent of the products are exported. The assortment includes more than 10 thousand items. This includes handmade tableware. Special tableware for catering establishments is currently in development. The company plans to open branded stores throughout the country. However, let's get back to fashion. What will be in it in the coming season, which fabrics and colors should I prefer to be on trend, and, most importantly, at what price? Answers to all these and other questions could be obtained at the exhibition. These days we had the opportunity to understand what modern Belarusian fashion is like. And this happened already at the end of the first day of the exhibition after the screenings





of the enterprises of the Bellegrprom concern. The opinion that modern Belarus is active in the fashion industry and strives to find a worthy place for itself is unequivocal. As well as the fact that Belarusian fashion modeling, our light industry and fashion designers are trying to keep up with the modern world and keep up with the times. By the way,



the rich traditions of the national costume of all classes have an impact on the modern modeling of the clothes of the inhabitants of Belarus, who are inclined to elegant, practical and comfortable clothes. And this gives Belarusian fashion a special colorfulness and originality. By the way, Larisa Nyamtsu, speaker, fashion designer, scholarship holder of the special fund of the President of the Republic of Belarus for social support of gifted students, author of the "Cornflowers" clothing collection and head of the modeling school, spoke about this, in particular, about Belarusian traditions in modern fashion and the importance of preserving and developing the cultural code at the presentation.

The final day of the exhibition was also eventful. Master classes, presentations, a show of the collection of the young designer Arthur Grigorovich, the art director of his own Fashion House, as well as the official closing ceremony of the exhibition, the presentation of diplomas and awards - all this allowed us to experience a sense of deep satisfaction from the new impressions presented by the 48th International Fair for the wholesale of light industry goods BelTexIndustry.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by the author



BELARUSIAN LITERATURE IN THE WORLD

CHRONICLES OF LITERARY LIFE. 1966 — 1985

1980. In February, the All-Union Seminar of Playwrights (three weeks) was held in Yalta at the A. P. Chekhov House of Creativity. Belarus was represented by Anatoly Vertinsky, Valentin Luksha, and Yevgeny Shaban.

In March, the Central House of Artists in Moscow presented a new programme by the artist Yu. Galyshev, *Stories about War*. The composition consisted of works by Vasil Bykau. Today, such relationships between different types of art and literature are exactly what is lacking!

In April, a round table entitled 'Unity of the Path, Diversity of Search' was held in Tashkent by the Literary Gazette and the Writers' Union of the Uzbek SSR. Anatoly Vertinsky took part. His notes from the round table entitled *Around the Friendly Table...* were published in the *Litaratura i Mastatsiva* newspaper. Belarusian writers have surprisingly well-developed contacts with Uzbekistan even today. For example, an evening dedicated to the 135th anniversary of the classic of Uzbek literature Hamza Niyazi was recently held in the House of Friendship in Minsk. The following poets and translators from the Belarusian

side took part in the event: Yelena Stelmakh, Mikhail Poznyakov, Naum Galperovich, Inna Frolova...

On May 23rd, *Litaratura i Mastatsiva* reported on the premiere of the play *To Go and Not Return* by Vasil Bykau.

In July, Minsk was visited by the Chairwoman of the Section of Translators of Soviet Literature of the Writers' Union of Bulgaria, editor of the Narodno Kultura publishing house Penka Kyneva. It should be recalled that Penka Asenava Kyneva, born in 1942, translated into Bulgarian Ivan Melezh's *Breath of the Thunderstorm*, Vasil Bykau's *His Battalion* and *To Go and Not Return*, Kuzma Chorny's *The Milky Way*, Uladzimir Karatkevich's *Chestnut Leaves*, *The Black Castle Olshansky*, *The Golden God*, Ivan Naumenko's *Farewell in Kovaltsy*, Boris Sachenko's *Oksana*, Viktor Kazko's *Leap Year* and *The Pear Tree Blooms in Polesie*, as well as *I Am From the Fire Village* by Ales Adamovich, Vladimir Kolesnik and Yanka Bryl, and other works.

In August, the 11th All-Union Festival of Young Poets was held in Kyzyl (Tuvan ASSR, RSFSR). Zmitrok Morozov, Galina Korzhenevskaya, and Nikolai

Metlitsky took part from Belarus.

In September, the Montreal-80 film festival featured a screening of the feature film *King Stakh's Wild Hunt*, based on the story of the same name by Uladzimir Karatkevich.

In September, Rainer Lindau, a writer from the GDR, spent eight days in Minsk. His purpose was to collect materials for a novel about the Great Patriotic War, the action of which takes place in Belarus and Ukraine. Belarusian writers A. Vertinsky, L. Gavrilkin, Ye. Korshukov and others met with his German colleague. In October, a conversation with the Hungarian poet and translator Andras Shimar took place in the Union of Writers of the BSSR. Vasil Bykau, Anatoly Vertinsky, Leonid Gavrilkin, Ales Adamovich, and Yevgeny Korshukov took part in the conversation.

A meeting with Czech literary scholar and translator Vaclav Židlický took place at the House of Writers.

In October, the All-Union Creative Conference 'Friendship of Peoples — Friendship of Literatures. The Word of the Writer is an Active Force in the International and Patriotic Education of the Soviet People' was held in Baku. Vasil Bykau, Nil Gilevich, and Yahunia Yanishchits participated from Belarus. Today, there is also an authorized representative of Belarusian literature in Baku, literary scholar and translator Flora Nadji. Recently, on August 29th, 2024, speaking online at the international round table of Belarusian and foreign writers 'Time Has Chosen Us', the Azerbaijani writer spoke about a new project to promote Belarusian literature in Azerbaijan — the preparation of a one-volume edition of Uladzimir Karatkevich's prose translated into Azerbaijani.

...In November, a rally was held on Buinichi Field to mark the opening of the memorial sign of Konstantin Simonov. V. Ozerov, N. Gilevich, and others spoke. An evening of meeting with Soviet writers was held at the Palace of Pioneers and Schoolchildren in Mogilev. V. Ozerov, R. Kazakova, V. Zuyonok, M. Oliger, V. Bykau, R. Rozhdestvensky, and others spoke. It remains to add that in August 2024, Secondary School No. 24 in Mogilev was named after Konstantin Simonov.

In December, the House of Writers hosted a literary evening dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the classic of Russian poetry Aleksandr Blok. The event was opened by Maxim Tank, and Sergei Grakhovsky, Yahunia Yanishchits, and Yan Skrygan spoke. Let us recall that over the years, A. Blok's works were translated into Belarusian by I. Dvorchanin, A. Dudar, V. Bolbas, A. Badak, S. Dergai, M. Duksa, M. Kalachinsky, R. Lynkov, Ya. Sipakov, M. Fedyukovich, and others. In 1980, Sergei Grakhovsky published a comprehensive collection of A. Blok's works, *Selected Poems and Verses*, in his

translations. The book, *Polesie Days of Aleksandr Blok* (published in Mastatskaya Litaratura in 1985), was written by the Belarusian documentary writer Nikolai Kalinkovich (1950–1990). In Luninets and the Luninets District, for many decades, thanks to the efforts of the member of the Union of Writers of Belarus Tatyana Konopatskaya, Days of Remembrance of Nikolai Kalinkovich and Aleksandr Blok have been held. In the Pinsk District, in the village of Lopatino, in the Brest Region, there is the Library-Museum named after Aleksandr Blok. By the way, the date of foundation of the Literary Museum named after A. Blok in Lopatino is November 2nd, 1980.



■ Yahunia Yanishchits

1981. In January, a scientific conference dedicated to the 350th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding writer and educator Simeon Polotsky was held in Minsk. The organisers were the Yanka Kupala Institute of Literature of the BSSR Academy of Sciences and the A. M. Gorky Institute of World Literature of the USSR Academy of Sciences. The report was given by the deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee of Slavists A. Robinson — *The Significance of the Creative Feat of Simeon Polotsky for Russian Poetry*.

On March 31st, in Moscow, in the Central House of Writers named after A. A. Fadeyev, an evening was held dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the birth of the People's Writer of Belarus Ivan Shamyakin.



■ Memorial sign
of Konstantin
Simonov
on the Buinichi field

Yu. Verchenko, S. Baruzdin, A. Ananyev, V. Bokov, Ya. Khelemsky, writers from Ukraine, Tajikistan, Latvia, Czechoslovakia and others spoke.

On April 13th, the evening 'Friendship of Peoples — Friendship of Literatures' was held in the assembly hall of the Minsk State Pedagogical Institute named after A. M. Gorky. Guests of the 8th Congress of the Union of Writers of the BSSR — V. Ozerov, S. Mikhalkov, V. Soloukhin, Yu. Vanag, V. Bokov, T. Bayram, A. Ovcharenko, Ya. Khelemsky, V. Gordeichev, R. Mustafin, I. Fanyakov and others — spoke to students and teachers together with Belarusian writers. The list of these people shows that those writers who had long-standing friendships with Belarusian writers and Belarus wanted to come. This primarily concerns the poet and translator Yakov Khelemsky (1914–2003). Having first discovered Belarus during the liberation campaign of the Red Army to annex Western Belarus to the BSSR, having written the poem *In the Thirty-Ninth...* (with the inscription: "Molodechno, 1939"), he devoted most of his creative aspirations to translating Belarusian poetry into Russian. In 1956, the Ogonyok Library published Arkadz Kulyashou's poem *Groznyaya Pushcha* translated by Ya. Khelemsky, in 1958 — *Poems from the Road* by Maxim Tank, in 1959 — again a collection by M. Tank... In 1961 — *And the Days Go By...* by Piatrus Brouka. Collections of translations by Yakov Khelemsky were published not only in Moscow, but also in Minsk — *Translating the Poems of a Comrade* (1962), *The Key* (1968), *Four Masters* (1984)... From

the preface *From the Translator* in the collection of transformations *Translating the Poems of a Comrade*, "My work is only a small part of the collective work. Therefore, one should not treat this small collection as an anthological publication. From this point of view, it is certainly not complete and has significant gaps. And if the reader does not find some notable works here, if the book sometimes completely lacks poems by this or that good poet, the reason should be sought only in the fact that these works were translated not by me, but by other comrades. It is necessary to keep in mind the circumstances that the collection, due to their large volume, does not include poems by Kulyashou, Brouka, Tank, Tavlai, Ostapenko, Belevich, the translation of which constituted a rather significant part of my entire work..." Rather modest lines of the preface of the translator, who at that time had already done an incredible amount in the matter of introducing the Russian reader to Belarusian poetry.

In May, the Moscow Academic Theatre named after V. Mayakovsky presented the premiere of the play *The Bells of Khatyn* based on the stories by V. Bykau *The Third Rocket* and *To Go and Not Return*.

In August, a meeting of Belarusian writers with teachers of the Bialystok Voivodeship of the Polish People's Republic who taught the Belarusian language took place in the House of Writers.

The translator from the FRG Mechtild Russel stayed in Belarus for three days. There was also a meeting in the Union of Writers of the BSSR, in which Anatoly Vertinsky, Boris Sachenko, Vasil Bykau

conducted a dialogue with the German translator. The discussion also concerned the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Yakub Kolas and Yanka Kupala in the FRG.

The Mysl publishing house in Moscow has released the book *Francysk Skaryna* by S. Podokshin.

The Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia Publishing House named after P. Brouka has begun work on a five-volume edition of *Encyclopedia of Literature and Art of Belarus*. The peculiarity of this reference publication, which is still used by researchers (almost half a century after its publication!) is that its pages widely reveal the stages of international relations of Belarusian literature. This is through individual articles devoted to connections with certain literatures, and through personal articles telling about translators of Belarusian prose and poetry, about literary scholars. Cultural scholars, who in other countries have done quite a lot to expand the knowledge of Belarusian fine literature.

In December, from the 9th to the 16th, celebrations dedicated to the 90th anniversary of Maxim Bogdanovich took place in various cities of Russia — in Moscow, Yaroslavl, Gorky. A very important moment is the anniversaries of Belarusian classics in other republics and countries, the publication of works in translation into other languages and their publication for anniversaries. So in 1981, the publication of new translations of Bogdanovich's poetry and articles about his work appeared in various publications in English, Kazakh, Russian (in Russian publications — translations by B. Sprinchen, B. Irinin, M. Komissarova), Turkmen, Uzbek, Ukrainian, Latvian.

In December, the House of Writers hosted an evening dedicated to the 80th anniversary of A. Fadeyev's birth. Ivan Chigrinov opened and hosted the event, and I. Shamyakin, P. Kovalev, M. Luzhanin, and V. Yurevich spoke at the evening. Aleksandr Fadeyev was closely connected with Belarusian literature and Belarusian writers. Detailed letters-reviews of the achievements in prose and drama by Pylyp Pestrk, Ivan Melezh, Vitaly Volsky, Makar Posledovich have been preserved, letters in which Aleksandr Fadeyev, sparing no time, tactfully, and respectfully expressed his comments... The evening dedicated to A. Fadeyev's 80th anniversary will also be held at the Yanka Kupala Literary Museum.

1982. In February, the Day of Remembrance of the Russian writer F.M. Dostoevsky was held. A literary evening was held at the Republican House of Art Workers.

In March, the Palace of Arts in Vilnius hosted an evening of the Lithuanian poet A. Baltakis and the Belarusian poet R. Baradulin. Incidentally, in 1982, Ryhor Baradulin also managed to visit Tajikistan

and Turkmenistan, as well as Czechoslovakia... And Russia — Khabarovsk, Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Leningrad, Moscow... From such trips, the artists brought back not only impressions, but also poems or wrote them at home, keeping close memories in mind...

In March, an exhibition about the life and work of the German classic J. W. Goethe opened in the Lenin State Library of the BSSR. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his death, two evenings were held in Minsk in memory of the German writer. Back in 1940, the State Publishing House of Belarus published Johann Wolfgang Goethe's poem *Reynard the Fox* in a print run of 7,000 copies, translated by Vitaly Volsky. One of the first Belarusian articles about the great German writer was Professor Barychevsky's publication *Goethe and the Theatre in the Art and Revolution* magazine in July 1932.

On May 12th, *Literary Gazette* published a report on the creation of the Jubilee Committee to prepare and hold the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Belarusian people's poet Yanka Kupala.

On June 7th, an exhibition of Slovenian books opens in the Minsk House of Books. The opening was attended by the Minister of Culture of Slovenia M. Kmecl, the First Secretary of the Board of the Union of Writers of Belarus Nil Gilevich.

On June 20th — 26th, the All-Union Conference 'Socialist Lifestyle: Young Cities and Modern Literature' was held in Naberezhnye Chelny (Tatarstan, Russian Federation). The organisers were the Writers' Union of the USSR, the Writers' Union of Tatarstan, the *Novy Mir* magazine, and the Naberezhnye Chelny City Committee of the CPSU. Belarus was represented at the conference by poetess Nelli Tulupova.

In June, a festival of poetry of the peoples of the USSR was held in Azerbaijan. Belarusian poet Piatrus Makal took part in it.

July 7th was the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Belarusian people's poet Yanka Kupala. Various all-Union periodicals published articles dedicated to this date. The same publications and new translations of Yanka Kupala's poetry appeared in newspapers and magazines in the languages of the peoples of the USSR. For example, in the translations of Igor Shklyarevsky, Ivan Bursov — in the magazines *October*, *Friendship of Peoples*, in *Literary Gazette*. In 1982, individual books by Yanka Kupala were published in English, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Latvian, Moldavian, Russian, Tajik, Ukrainian, Estonian. Will such practices be recreated again?! This, apparently, largely depends on us, on Belarusians, on our cultural and literary policy. And first of all, there should be interest from modern foreign translators. Then, perhaps, there will be interest from publishers and demand for classical Belarusian poetry among

modern foreign readers. Yanka Kupala, Yakub Kolas, Maxim Bogdanovich, Uladzimir Karatkevich were and remain symbols of Belarusian national literature, artistic and national symbols of Belarus.

Festive evenings dedicated to the centenary of Yanka Kupala were held not only in Moscow, where G. Markov, M. Tank, B. Oleynik, M. Dudin, A. Maldonis and others performed, but also in Geneva (Switzerland).

In July, a Plenary Session of the Council for Literary Translation of the Writers' Union of the USSR was held in Minsk. Vyacheslav Rogoisha delivered a report. Representatives of the translation sections and councils of the Writers' Unions of the Union Republics took part in the debate.

On August 4th, an exhibition of Kazakh books opened in Minsk. Over 700 books were presented. It is worth noting that many creative initiatives in the format of Belarusian-Kazakh literary ties are still being implemented. The years 2008–2023 were especially fruitful in this regard. It was during this period that Abai's books *Steppe Space* (translator Nikolai Metlitsky), *Abai's Path* by Mukhtar Auezov (translator Mikhail Pozdnyakov) were published in Belarusian translation in Minsk. As well as three books by educator, literary scholar, publicist and prose writer Nemat Kelimbetov *I Don't Want to Lose Hope, Envy, Letters to My Son* (translators Ales Badak, Ales Karlyukevich, Gennady Avlasenko). The

planet/It calls you into the world of tenderness and love./And nature has survived outside of time,/And wisdom will thoughtfully touch the eyes./He reads the poem — and eternity over Olzhas/with an eternal question: to be or not to be?..” In the last decade and a half, Kazakhstani writers, translators, literary scholars Svetlana Ananyeva, Lyubov Shashkova, Valery Mikhailov, Kairat Bakbergenov, Nurdaulet Akyshev, Umit Tazhken, and other writers have visited Belarus with various creative concerns, various initiatives. And in 2024, Belarusian writer and literary scholar Aleksandr Karlyukevich was awarded the Alash International Kazakhstan Literary Prize.

In August, a meeting of the creative intelligentsia with participants of the March of Peace-82 movement was held in the writer's house. Ales Adamovich, Vasil Bykau, Nil Gilevich, and the Norwegian writer Green Grenwald spoke.

From September 28th to October 1st, the International Scientific Conference ‘Slavic Cultures and the World Cultural Process’ was held in Minsk. It was held within the framework of the project of the UNESCO and the International Association for the Study and Dissemination of Slavic Cultures. About 20 scientists from Austria, Great Britain, Hungary, Bulgaria, the GDR, Greece, Denmark, the USSR, India, Yugoslavia and other countries took part in it. Meetings of three sections were held on the topics: ‘Slavic Cultures in the 20th Century’, ‘Slavic Cultures in Antiquity and the Middle Ages’, ‘Slavic Cultures of the New Age’. The text of the message of UNESCO Director-General Amadou-Moukhta M’boku to the conference participants was published in the republican press. On September 30th, a round table ‘Classics of Belarusian Literature Yanka Kupala and Yakub Kolas in the Context of Slavic Cultures’ was held in the House of Writers.

Days of Soviet Literature were held in Khabarovsk Krai (Russian Federation). Writers from different parts of the Soviet Union visited the Khabarovsk Literary Museum. The BSSR was represented by poet Ryhor Baradulin. Here is what he mentioned about the trip in his diary entries, “... Khabarovsk. Open hearths of volcanoes. Hot rivers, fireworks, hot fires.” Aleksey Klementyevich Cherny, “The territory [of Khabarovsk Krai] is as big as 2 Japans. It takes 3–4 hours to get to some regional centres by plane, or 3 hours by plane, 4 by train. Portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin. Forests grow twice as much as they are developed. Ensure greater survival of the population and eliminate personnel turnover, 900 km of border with China. People did not flee after the natural disaster (after the construction of the power line, 200 visitors, almost all left, they were not persuaded much). Such fires that even an elk could not escape from the fire, some villages burned to the ground.



■ Edition translated by Nikolai Metlitsky

Minsk House of Writers hosted a creative evening with the legendary Soviet and Kazakh poet and publicist Olzhas Suleimenov to a packed house. Translations of his poems appeared in the *Polymya* magazine. Nikolai Metlitsky wrote a poem *Olzhas Suleimenov in Minsk*: “He has not lost a single sparkle of the light of his soul,/he pails brightly with the sparks of kindness./He reads the poem — and then Semipalatinsk/extinguishes the X-rays./The bricks of Brest, which until now/Burn with an unwashed blush of blood./You read the poem — as if from another

It seems to us that everything is great with us, and worse with others. The factor of remoteness plays an even greater role than climatic conditions in terms of staff retention. The Far Eastern coefficient < ... >, in Komsomolsk-on-Amur the turnover has decreased, since the coefficient has been raised. For peasants on the border, the coefficient for fear — they named it. Everyone will [receive] 1.6. and 1.7 for the BAM.

There are more motorboats than cars. There are many tributaries, the devil won't find them, go fishing. If necessary, we can all hide, we saw from the plane how many tributaries there are. It is necessary that the shops have...

title Hero of the Soviet Union for his exploits on the territory of Belarus...

In September, a scientific and creative conference entitled 'Soviet Multinational Literature in the Spiritual World of Our Contemporary' was held in Fergana (Uzbekistan). Belarusian critic Varlen Bechik took part in it.

The 4th International Meeting of Writers of Young Countries of Asia and Africa was held in Frunze (Kyrgyzstan). Belarusian prose writer Genrikh Dalidovich was also included in the Soviet delegation. On October 15th, *Litaratura i Mastatsiva* published a thorough article by Carlos Sherman, *Overcoming*



■ Nanai
poet and prose
writer
Andrei Passar

The East-West highway is being actively developed, with asphalt and hard surfaces." A slice, a page of life... During his trip to Khabarovsk Krai, Ryhor Baradulin got acquainted with the customs and problems of the local population. He discovered who the Nanai people were. He visited Amursk, Snake Island. He got to know Komsomolsk-on-Amur. Many entries in the diary are sharp reflections of the Nanai poet and prose writer Andrei Aleksandrovich Passar (1925–2013), who talked about the fate of his people, their contact with civilization. By the way, an interesting fact: A. Passar's last book is the poem *Bichekhe Evropachi. Message to Europe* (2010). This is a poetic anti-fascist appeal to 26 German soldiers who were single-handedly captured by his cousin, sniper and scout Aleksandr Passar, Hero of the Soviet Union. Aleksandr Passar fought on the First Belorussian Front. He received the

Mastery, devoted to the problems of literary translation. Carlos Sherman (1934–2005) did an incredible amount for the development of translation in Belarus. In September and November, Moscow hosted events dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Belarusian folk singer Yakub Kolas. September 9 — a meeting of the All-Union Jubilee Committee headed by Sergei Mikhalkov. November 1 — a festive evening at the Bolshoi Theatre of the USSR. S. Mikhalkov, Ye. Isaev, J. Marcinkevičius, V. Bykau and others spoke.

In November, the People's Poet of Afghanistan N. Hafez was a guest of the Union of Writers of the BSSR. Days of Soviet Literature were held in the Kirov Region (Russia). Vasily Zuyonok participated from Belarus.

Konstantin Leshnitsa

To be continued

TRYING TO CHANGE THE LIFE OF BOOKS

Quite often, when the conversation turns to our ancestor, the educator and first printer Francysk Skaryna, such a figurative description of modern book publishers arises: ‘Skaryna’s Descendants’, or another definition with this meaning...

More than three decades ago, in 1990, before the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was such an idea — to establish a creative and production association named after Francysk Skaryna. The National Archives of the Republic of Belarus contains a collective letter to the Chairman of the Government of the BSSR Vyacheslav Frantsevich Kebich dated July 26th, 1990, which was signed by a Group of Comrades. And to be precise — the People’s Writer of Belarus, the Editor-in-Chief of the Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia Publishing House named after Piatrus Brouka Ivan Shamyakin, the Chairman of the Union of Writers of the BSSR poet Vasily Zuyonok, the Director of the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House poet Valery Grishanovich, the General Director of the Minsk Production Printing Association named after Yakub Kolas Valery Germanov.

This is what the authors of the letter to the Council of Ministers of the BSSR began with, “The Union of Writers of the BSSR, the Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia Publishing House named after Piatrus Brouka, the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House and the Minsk Production Printing Association named after Yakub Kolas are introducing to the government of the republic with a proposal to establish a creative and production association named after Francysk Skaryna for the publication of classical and modern Belarusian literature, Belarusian encyclopedias, literary and historical heritage, monuments of Russian and world literature...”

There was undoubtedly a legal basis for implementing such an initiative. On May 17th, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted a resolution ‘On the creation of the Association of State Enterprises...’. And so the ‘Belarusian’ project was initiated with the goal of creating a union, an association that would “correspond to the spirit and requirements of modern national-cultural and economic policy aimed at the spiritual development of the people,

the affirmation of the sovereignty of the republic, the strengthening of its economic independence, the development of initiative and enterprise, and the expansion of foreign economic relations.”

Why exactly this format — creative and production?.. “The unification into the Association of the Union of Writers of the BSSR, the leading publishing houses of the republic and the Minsk Production Printing Association named after Yakub Kolas, which make a predominant contribution to the development of national book publishing, have the most significant economic and financial indicators, will allow accelerating the implementation of the republican programmes Native Language, Heritage, Memory, approved by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus and the Government of the Republic.”

A little further down it will become clear why such an exclusively production, economic association also has a creative union. But first, let us turn to the characteristics that the authors of the letter give to the Belarusian book printing... “Currently, there is a significant imbalance in book-thematic practice and policy. In 1985, the State Publishing Committee of the BSSR instructed specialised publishing houses to also publish fiction in exchange for waste paper, a significant part of which, in addition to everything else, is sold outside the republic. This has had a negative impact on the prestige of national literature, leading to a deficit in children’s, educational, reference, encyclopedic literature...”

In 1990, there were quite a few state publishing houses in the republic — Belarus, Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia named after Piatrus Brouka, Mastatskaya Litaratura, Universitetskoe, Urozhai, Vysheishaya Shkola, Yunost, Polymya, Narodnaya Asveta... More than half of them no longer exist. But there was no Primary School (this publishing house does not exist, however, even now),

Obrazovanie i Vospitaniye (Education and Upbringing), just as there was no Zvyazda media and book publishing house... However, today a lot of private publishing houses have grown. Some of them already have a rich history. The others worked and closed. Then, in the late 1980s — early 1990s, they were just starting to open. For example, the Polyfact publishing house (established in 1989) or Eridan (established in 1990; the most famous collection of works by J. H. Chase)... Aquarius, Belarusian Association of Detective, Adventure and Political Novel appeared...

From a letter to Vyacheslav Kebich, "... At the same time, it should be noted that in terms of book production per capita, the republic is far from being the leading country. In 1988, book sales per capita in Minsk Region by bookstores amounted to only 2 rubles 68 kopecks. The situation is not better in other regions either." A short digression. One US dollar in 1988 was equal to 58 kopecks. This means that per capita of Minsk Region, books were sold for 4 dollars 62 cents. Allowing for such conventions, it is easier to count and compare, and ultimately, one can reflect. As of January 1st, 2022, 1 million 465 thousand 755 people lived in Minsk Region. It turns out that according to statistics, book sales in 2022 for residents of the region could be equal to 6 million 771 thousand 788 dollars... We will not comment on this, since the figure is incredible for today. And we will have to deviate from the topic of the letter to the Belarusian government to something completely different... Of course, there are many objective and subjective reasons that have reduced society's interest in books. Including domestic ones... Not the least role in this is played by the decrease in the number of bookstores. We will not analyze their number in 1990 and 2022 or 2023 throughout the region, let's pay attention to at least one Pukhovichi District. In 1990 and earlier, there were bookstores in Maryina Gorka (even two; one in the very centre of Maryina Gorka, the second — in a military town), Pukhovichi, Rudensk, Dukor, Shatsk... Books were actively sold in Soyuzpechat kiosks. Today, there is only one bookstore in the entire Pukhovichi District — in Maryina Gorka, it belongs to the Belkoopsoyuz system, where, by the way, consumer goods are sold next to books...

"The Creative and Production Association sets itself the task," we read in the appeal to Kebich, "of implementing a target programme for publishing classical and modern Belarusian literature, Belarusian encyclopedias, a rich literary and historical heritage and literary monuments of Slavic writing, the best works of domestic and foreign classics. The Association, i.e. the unification of forces and capabilities, would facilitate the implementation of a hundred-volume publication of Treasures of World Literature and Library of Nobel Prize Laureates. This direction should become a priority in the field of book publishing in the republic. It is proposed to organise the publication of books in Belarusian, Russian, and foreign languages for the purpose of their distribution both on the domestic and foreign markets. It is not excluded that in the

future, joint ventures for the publication and distribution of literature will be created, which would serve as a source of foreign currency. The basis for this is available: the Mastatskaya Litaratura publishing house and Belarusian Soviet Encyclopedia are currently the largest exporters of books." The more you read the contents of this letter, the more you understand that its authors were not naive, they understood both the near and distant prospects for the development of book publishing in the republic and in the post-Soviet space in general... Without deviating too far from the contents of the document, let us turn to one topic that surfaced much later... In 2007–2008, Yakub Kolas Printing Plant OJSC (the enterprise that initially existed under this name, before merging with the color printing factory that now bears the name of the Yakub Kolas Printing Plant; at that time, the printing plant was located in the centre of the capital, near Yakub Kolas Square) was going to be acquired by a Russian investor. The potential buyer was the AST publishing group. Deputy Minister of Information of the already sovereign Belarus Igor Laptienok at a press conference on January 17th, 2008, told journalists that "a buyer from Russia offers to buy a controlling stake in the Yakub Kolas Printing Plant and invest 7 million euros in its reconstruction." And the General Director of the enterprise V. Germanov, among other things, added, "Ninety-five percent of the enterprise's capacity is utilised for orders from Russia." And as for the number of titles, then, figuratively speaking, 2,700 titles of books and brochures with a total circulation of more than 30 million copies were leaving the printing press at the printing plant... So, the concern of Belarusian publishers and printers that had been there for almost two decades was quite understandable, logical, in some ways it had the character of clairvoyance. Something had to be done!.. There was no time to waste!

We read further, "The proposed variant of the association of creative and publishing-printing structures guarantees, as we see it, a strong relationship of the National Book Publishing in the spirit of Skaryna's traditions. The creation of the Association does not require additional financial costs. The project is economically justified: the State Planning Committee of the BSSR provides the new Creative and Production Association with material and technical resources and printing, without additional expenditure, at the 1990 level. Already now, the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House is completing the transfer of typesetting to personal computers with the transfer of information media on magnetic media to the phototypesetting center at the Minsk Production Printing Association named after Yakub Kolas, which will speed up the process of publishing books.

In the conditions of transition to a market economy, improvement of the economic mechanism, the Creative and Production Association named after F. Skaryna will be able to create a consortium, establish cooperation with enterprises of the forestry, woodworking and



light industries by redistributing financial resources to strengthen the material and technical base of enterprises that will enter the consortium.” Let’s look at the encyclopedic reference book. What is a consortium?.. This is a temporary agreement between several banks or industrial enterprises for the joint placement of a loan or the implementation of a single project for large-scale attraction of income. When establishing a consortium, the enterprises included in it fully retain their independence, but in terms of activities related to the goals of the consortium, they are subordinate to jointly elected management. Industrial consortiums are established by industrial companies and credit organizations for the implementation of capital-intensive, international, infrastructure projects.

The authors of the appeal to the government in 1990 looked into the future... “Development of the material and technical base, reconstruction, technical re-equipment of the printing industry, organisation of the production of our own paper, cardboard and other printing materials in the republic, recycling of waste paper, participation in the expansion of production capacities of pulp and paper mills of the Russian Federation — these issues are vitally important for the book industry today. With the appropriate support of the Government of the Republic, the new creative and production association is quite capable of solving these and other problems promptly and flexibly.”

Interested bookmen and leaders who were concerned about the fate of the Belarusian book appealed to the government... “Taking into account the relevance of the national book publishing programme, the publication of literary monuments of Slavic, world and domestic cultures, its significant contribution to the development of the spiritual needs of the people, we would suggest that it is necessary to establish a state order for the entire volume of their publication, based on the high costs of publication, the huge losses in the publication of literature in the Belarusian language, which are today covered by the state budget, to establish a preferential taxation on profits from publication, as provided for by

the relevant resolution of the Council of Ministers of the USSR for creative unions.”

And another important point, which is still visible as a problem today, 33 years later, “... As for the disparate activities of the other specialised publishing houses of the republic, in our opinion, their unification is also possible on a thematic-industry basis...” The authors of the letter really hoped for the government’s attentive attitude to their worthy and relevant idea, “... We hope for support of our initiative to establish a creative and production association named after F. Skaryna and are confident that the implementation of the proposed national book publishing programme will be an important contribution to the revival of Belarusian spirituality and statehood.”

The Charter of the Creative and Production Association named after F. Skaryna was also proposed to the government. As well as a list of the Association’s board. In addition to the authors of the letter, the following were proposed for the board: Editor-in-Chief of the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House Serafim Andreyuk, Head of the Economic Department of the State Committee for the Press of the BSSR M. Bukaty, Deputy Director of the Mastatskaya Litaratura Publishing House Pavel Zhurkevich, writer, corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences of the BSSR Oleg Loiko, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the encyclopedic publishing house Ivan Khavratovich.

On one of the pages of the archival document there is a handwritten entry: “The issue was reported by Mazai N. N. (in 1990 — Vice Premier of the government of the republic). According to the Union of Writers, the proposals made will be clarified with the publishers and then submitted for consideration to the Council of Ministers of the BSSR...” It is obvious that the addressee’s review of this weighty ‘piece of paper’ was the most superficial. Otherwise, the resolution would have been different. And maybe the reality of domestic book publishing in the following decades would also have been different..?

Vyacheslav Selemenev,
Nikolai Berlezh

"I FEEL HAPPY TO MEET READERS..."

Katerina Khadasevich-Lisovaya seems to be known by the whole country. A writer who has persistently worked for many years with the child readers in mind. A teacher with considerable teaching experience. A frequent participant in meetings with readers. There are various communities of fans of her works and her fairy-tale characters on the Internet. And what does Katerina herself think about Belarusian children's literature, how does she evaluate domestic book publishing, and how does she generally feel about books and reading? Readers are invited to read to a conversation with the writer on a variety of topics.





“Can a writer today be satisfied with his or her relationship with publishers?”

“My first book was published in 2004. And now I have been cooperating with publishing houses for twenty years, so I believe that I have some experience. I remember that before I decided to publish my first book, I heard from successful and famous writers that the path of a writer is stormy and difficult. That in addition to talent, it requires sincere dedication, colossal work capacity and constant self-improvement, because publishing a book and finding your readers is not at all easy. As a beginner, it was clear to me what serious tasks writing poses. But it really attracted me, so I decided to try to publish my first book. Looking back at the experience of two decades, I can say that both twenty years ago and today a writer can be satisfied and grateful to publishers for cooperation. It is important for every creator to find a publisher who will appreciate his or her talent, believe in the success of the work and the prospects of the author, and support the release of the book.

But sometimes a difficult and long path leads to an established process of joint work. The success of a manuscript proposed for publication can be ensured primarily by a high-quality text that will be interesting

to the target audience; the topic should correspond to the needs of readers and be relevant. It is also important that a stack of such manuscripts does not wait for its time in the editorial portfolio of the publishing house, because in this case you can stand in line for a long time. I will add that the writer's work is not only about creating a worthy text. It is necessary to work with the book that will see the world, to present it with dignity and interest, to convey it to readers in every possible way. And this should be done in close and constant cooperation with the publishing house.”

“Do you work with one or several publishing houses? Who usually makes the decision — do they contact you or do you come with a new manuscript?”

“As of today, I have thirty published books in my creative portfolio, which were released by seven major publishing houses. Twenty of them were released by the Zvyazda Publishing House. Collections in which my works were published add several more titles to the list of publishing houses with which I collaborate.

Probably, every writer has a publishing house where most of his or her books are published. Authors try to offer their manuscripts to different institutions, but then everyone

finds their main publishing house. My first children's book was published by Mastatskaya Litaratura, and then I received a new interesting offer, which became the start of many years of creative collaboration. I have been with Zvyazda from the very beginning, as soon as this first media holding in the country launched a book publishing house. By the way, my first book, the manuscript of which I brought to the same and so familiar to me address Zakharaova, 19, was published in early 2012, when the publishing house was called 'Litaratura i Mastatstva', and on the title page of the next one it was written 'Zvyazda'. In my writer's destiny, this is a special institution, which can be easily noticed by the number of books published there. I am grateful to the employees of the publishing house for our long-standing and fruitful creative friendship, for the dozens of books that we created together and with their presentations we travel around Belarus to meet with young readers of each region. A real literary marathon! Since 2019, my books have been published in a separate series *Tales of the Book Fairy* at the Zvyazda Publishing House. It is nice that the publishing house is interested in new manuscripts, so I constantly bring my works. But offers from other publishing houses also happen and from time to time my books appear there. Over the past few years, I have been published by the following publishing houses: Mastatskaya Litaratura, Belarus, Narodnaya Asveta, Blagovest..."

"And how, by the way, are decisions made about re-publications? Who is the main initiator of them?"

"It is very important to republish books, especially children's books. For example, a book about my Ukhutik, who is loved by children, was published. The stores sold out, and then you can only find it in libraries. Several years have passed — it is difficult to get hold of the book, but we need to introduce a new generation of little Belarusians to Ukhutik, introduce them to the fox Krasavitsa, and offer Padabaika as a friend. The publishing house republishes the print run if the books are in demand, if children like them. And I am grateful that my previous works are being published again, that today's schoolchildren will get to know my characters. And the initiator can be either the publisher or the author. If the book is good, there will be a reprint."

"Is it important for you to have your works translated into Russian? And into other languages?"

"I write in my native language. I consider it my important mission to show how beautiful, rich and harmonious our Belarusian language is. I tell children that it is our value,

our treasure, our cultural, even genetic code. Of course, I hold creative meetings and presentations in Belarusian. There has never been a situation where children did not understand, where they refused to listen, where the Belarusian language became an obstacle to interest in the book. In my understanding, all Belarusians can read my books in the original, in their native language. But translations of books are important, since then the readership expands. Two of my books — Orthodox stories — were translated into Russian and published in Moscow. Some of my works, not yet books, but individual fairy tales and stories, were published in collections, newspapers, magazines in translation into Kazakh, Tajik, Uighur, Chinese, English. It is very pleasant and important to see my works in translation. I want to have translations, to introduce my heroes to children of other countries."

"Are you satisfied with the artistic design of your books?"

"This is my special happiness as a writer! I am lucky with wonderful artists who bring my characters to life so beautifully and fabulously. It is very important that a children's book has high-quality, tasteful drawings. For young readers, a book often begins with a cover and illustrations that entice them to pick up the book and get to know it. My books were designed by different artists, they worked in different styles, but all the books are beautiful. And most importantly, children like them. And they notice everything! They pay attention to the drawings themselves, the color scheme, the style, the composition, they see every little



MEETINGS WITH WRITERS

detail. They especially note the font — they are happy with large letters that are easy to read. I also really appreciate it when the artist and I work closely together, when they ask me about my wishes, and send me sketches to look at first. The time of creating the drawings, our constant discussions, joint ideas — this is a special period of working on a book. I really like it! You see how your characters and the events described come to life. I am sincerely grateful to every artist who drew illustrations for my books for our collaboration.”

“You are a frequent participant in various events, book festivals... Do you regret the time you take away from creative work at your desk?”



“Meetings with young readers, their parents, teachers, librarians are joy, writer’s happiness and a source of inspiration. Each wonderful book holiday leaves warm memories in the heart, evokes pleasant experiences. I describe them, these emotions and the holidays themselves, in books. On the pages, readers get to know the characters, read about the meetings, and then come to them in reality. This is how the fairy tale comes to life, you can visit the Book Fairy! See with your own eyes Uhutik, the beautiful fox, Padabaika and other characters. So both I and my readers love meetings, celebrations, festivals.”

“In general, what does communication with the reader mean to you? How important is feedback to you?”

“Seeing and hearing my readers, receiving feedback from them on social media is not just part of my job as a writer, but part of my life. I often and with great pleasure meet with those to whom I tell fairy tales from the pages of books. Seeing the eyes of readers, listening to their impressions, finding out who and what they would like to read about in the fairy tales of the Book Fairy is extremely valuable and important. I am sincerely happy with each new reader-friend who hugs a book with an autograph to himself, and the eyes of a child are filled with interest, a pleasant anticipation of meeting a favorite hero who will become a good friend. I experience incredible writer’s happiness when regular readers come to meetings again and again for each new book. You see how they grow, you understand how quickly it happens... And here you want to keep them in your fairy-tale world as long as possible, to give them your new stories, so much so that sometimes, as my readers grow, books are written not only for elementary grades, but also for middle and even high school.”

“If you had the opportunity to open your own book publishing house, how, in what format, what design would you use for Katerina Khadasevich-Lisovaya’s books?”

“What would the Book Fairy publishing house be like? Everything would be magical there! Wizards and sorceresses would work there, publishing the kindest, brightest, most interesting, and fun books. I’m telling you about the wizard-publishers now and even imagining them in various marvelous outfits to match the fairy-tale publishing house. For example, a book about the Enchanted Swamp is being prepared – there is a bouquet of marsh marigold on the editor’s desk, a panel of moss and cattail hangs on the wall nearby, and during lunch breaks in the editorial office they drink water mint tea and treat themselves to candied cranberries. Atmospheric! I would like my books to be available in a variety of formats. I have already come up with many and implemented them together with the Zvyazda publishing house, and all that remains is to continue the work. These would continue to be printed books with many magnificent illustrations.

My quest books, flip books, gadget books, game books, travel books would still be published. I would like to add cartoons, augmented reality to the editions... Everything mentioned has already been tried, I need to come up with something unusual. I would like to publish a magic hologram book! I unfolded the pages, the book lit up and three-dimensional characters fluttered above it, the described events unfolded, the characters started talking... In the meantime, magic publishers will publish such books, offer readers audio fairy tales and electronic editions with pictures.”

“What, in your subjective opinion, is missing in the promotion of domestic children’s books?”

“It would be great to create a separate children’s book industry that would publish and bring publications to life, providing books with all kinds of support. I would like to see more advertising on television. It would be wonderful to create cartoons based on books, film fairy tales, use plots and interesting characters in children’s programmes, admire banners with books on the streets, read about new publications on bright leaflets in subway cars. Launch book trailers for children’s books on all kinds of screens, on the Internet, before watching a children’s movie. And it would be good for the characters of Belarusian fairy tales to appear on children’s clothes, backpacks, pencil cases...”

I would like better advertising, thorough promotion. It is precisely for children’s literature that we need to use the maximum resources, make serious investments, because these are important investments in the future of the nation. Love and interest in books and reading are born in childhood and remain for life. The foundation of reading independence, laid in infancy, will maintain the relationship with the book throughout a person’s life. The book will become a good friend — its constant presence will be necessary for a person. I also want Belarusians to read domestic, choose books in their native language, discover the names of modern authors in Belarusian literature.”

“I know that you recently visited a major book fair in Russia... What can we learn from Russian promoters of children’s books and children’s reading?”

“In general, the forms and methods of work are similar. We visited the libraries of Nizhny Novgorod, saw their large areas, modern technical equipment, new educational and entertainment venues with interesting interactive features. Every day something interesting happens in the libraries, readers are invited to events, master classes are organised, classes are held. Beautiful, creative, interesting. Having close relations with Belarusian libraries dear to my writer’s heart, I can say that our librarians are also diligent, create, work for readers. And I express my sincere



gratitude to them for their work, I am glad to be together, in one team that opens up the amazing world of books to young readers.

During the trip to Nizhny Novgorod, I was especially impressed by their ‘Pushkin Card’. This is a state financial and educational project aimed at the cultural education of young people, which started on September 1st, 2021. The essence of it is that young citizens aged 14-22 can receive a special bank card, to which money is transferred from the federal budget to purchase tickets for visiting cultural institutions: museums, theatres, philharmonic societies, cinemas... In the library, where we were on an excursion, a meeting with the writer was held. The entrance was paid, but the children paid with a Pushkin card. The writer also received a fee for the performance.

Ukhutik, the fox Krasavitsa and I also held several meetings with readers of the Nizhny Novgorod library and always began to speak in our native language. It was interesting for our guests, we even learned some words in Belarusian with them. And they really enjoyed listening to excerpts from fairy tales in the original. There is only one conclusion: children are interested in books, they are drawn to reading, so we — writers, artists, book publishers, librarians, teachers, parents — must work as one friendly team to create good, interesting books and present them to boys and girls. We know how to do it and we do it. Thank you! We continue to work for the benefit of young readers”

Interview by Konstantin Leshnitsa

Photo from Katerina Khadasevich-Lisovaya’s personal archive
and by Tatsiana Storozhenko

LOCAL HISTORY IS A SPIRITUAL MATTER...

Lyudmila Khmel'nitskaya is a regional historian, researcher of history and culture, art, and literature famous in the Vitebsk area, Belarus, and neighbouring countries. For more than a decade and a half, she worked as the director of the Marc Chagall Museum in Vitebsk. She is the author of numerous articles and books dedicated to Vitebsk, the Vitebsk area, and famous personalities of the Vitebsk region. Lyudmila Vladimirovna answered a number of questions from Zvyazda. We talked about her accomplishments as a researcher and about regional studies in general, which undoubtedly forms the components of patriotic education of society.



“Lyudmila Vladimirovna, how did your personal interest in local history begin?”

“Unfortunately, I don’t remember exactly how my personal interest in local history began. But I do remember when these interests finally took shape, formed, and became part of my life. It happened during my studies at the History Department of the Belarusian State University. My degree thesis, which I worked on for several years, was called *History of Local History Studies of the Vitebsk Region*. At that time, I was very fascinated by the topic, the materials for which I had to collect literally bit by bit. The topic has not lost its relevance for me to this day. Although quite a lot of works have been written and published...”

“To what extent, in your opinion, does the weight and role of local history research influence the formation of a common cultural and educational space?”

“If we talk about historical local studies, which I am constantly involved in, then they certainly have a strong influence. And their role is primarily educational. In Soviet times, scientists who lived mainly in Minsk and regional cities practically did not study regional history. And their interests were mainly related to social and political history. And it is important for a person to know not only about changes in general patterns of life in society, but above all about their roots — at the level of their own family, village, city. This is where a real interest in the history of their people, country begins — this is how a person is already made. Local history in a broad sense is the foundation on which many cultural values in society are based. Of course, such a statement will not be an exaggeration only when scientific local history is added to amateur local history. And the fact that regional local history conferences are now held under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus is a good thing, an extremely significant thing.”

“There are different periods of establishing the authority of local historians and local history. What time seems to you the most fruitful in this regard?”

“I think that local history studies should be as much of a mass movement as possible. One teacher makes folklore notes with

his students, another collects old things, this one sits in archives collecting information on the history of his family, that one develops topics related to the history of his locality. And they all have the opportunity to print the collected materials, leaving them for future generations, to talk about their work at conferences or creative meetings. These are the best times.”

“Did Chagall studies in Vitebsk and in Belarus in general arise and develop to a greater extent as a result of art history efforts or was it still the result of diligence in the field of artistic regional studies?”

“It can be said that it was solely due to the efforts of local historians that the name of Marc Chagall returned to Vitebsk in the early 1990s. It was they who resolved the issues of where the artist was born, whether he lived in Vitebsk at all, where his house was, etc. This is a whole story worthy of special consideration and coverage. And only later, when the artist’s museum was created in Vitebsk, professional art historians from all over the world joined the cause. For almost a quarter of a century, the museum held an annual scientific conference, *Chagall Readings*, the materials of which were printed on paper and posted on the Internet. At a certain stage, the artist’s granddaughters joined the cause, who held as many as five exhibitions of Chagall’s works from their own collection in Minsk and Vitebsk. So together they did a great job.”

“What are your main interests in local history work?”

“My work has been going in two directions simultaneously for many years. One is the biography and work of Marc Chagall and his circle. The second is the history of the Vitebsk region of the late 18th and early 20th centuries, where I am primarily interested in the history of the literary life of the region.”

“Artistic Vitebsk, the contact of this space with Russian art, and world art in general — how fully are these areas examined?”

“Local historians, scientists and museum workers have been working on this topic a lot in recent decades. Much has already been done, but, of course, not everything has been studied yet. Even if we take only such a small chronological period of time as the first quarter of the 20th century, we should take a closer look at the figures of, say, the sculptors Ossip Zadkine and Oskar Meshchaninov. Both of them are world famous and, together with Chagall, are considered representatives of the so-called Paris School. Their works are kept in the most famous museums in the world. There is a Zadkine Museum in Paris. Such personalities can become not only our own cultural heritage, but also a tourist brand for Belarus. And, I repeat, there are still many undeveloped names.”

“Don’t you think that with all the attention to Marc Chagall and Yudel Pen, the rather interesting artistic Vitebsk with its other figures is getting a little lost?”

“In my opinion, the problem is not that Chagall and Pen are overhyped. Remember the story of thirty years ago — then the names of neither of them were even known in Belarus. It is good that during this time the Chagall Museum appeared, Pen’s works are exhibited in the museums of Vitebsk and Minsk, the Belarus publishing house has released several albums with his works. If there are people now working on Chagall and Pen — that’s great, let the state institutions continue their work, so to speak, fly on their own wings. Let’s now just as thoroughly develop other figures of artistic Vitebsk — there are many of them, we don’t have to go far. When interesting and detailed information appears about other artists, now little known, when their works can be seen in museum exhibits, then the stereotypes about only Chagall and Pen being in Vitebsk will disappear from the mass consciousness on their own.”

“Local history, local history journalism in most cases is the basis for subsequent practical steps to preserve the memory of a person or event... Are you also guided by this conviction when setting out on one or another Search?”

“To be honest, I never thought about it. Although, of course, it is nice when a publication attracts the attention of other caring people and the work of preserving memory is continued by them. This happened to me with the Vitebsk historian Aleksei Sapunov. In 2000, I published his biography, and since then, so many things have happened around this person — local-history, archival and museum readings, exhibitions, various expeditions, and round tables that have been held for many years by local enthusiasts and institutions (the State Archives of the Vitebsk Region, the Vitebsk Regional Museum of Local History, the Regional Library), as well as the National Library of Belarus. This is very pleasant and comforting!”

“If it’s not a secret, please tell us about your unfulfilled dreams in local history...”

“My dreams as a local historian, apparently, do not concern me personally. As I have already said, local history is a regional matter, relevant first of all for a certain region. It is unlikely that a local history specialist from, say, Brest Region, will be interested in going into details of historical life in Vitebsk Region. That is why large historical collections that combine many small materials from different regions of Belarus always seem ridiculous to me. It is like the average temperature in a hospital — an objective indicator, but meaningless. It is much more useful if regional materials are collected under one cover. This affects not only their quality, but it is in this format that they will be especially in demand and accessible to those interested. So I dream of local history periodicals that would be published for individual regions of Belarus and would be maintained not only by the initiative of a few individuals, but would also have serious official, state support.”

Interview by Konstantin Leshnitsa

FORGOTTEN RUSSIAN WRITER LIBERATED BELARUS

Ivan Akulov told about the battles in Mogilev Region in his novel



Today's non-bookish times quickly cover with dust works that in other circumstances could awaken the consciousness of more than one generation of readers. And now even those of them who do not pick up a paper book know the names of Soviet-era writers Vasil Bykau, Yuri Bondarev, Viktor Astafyev, Grigory Baklanov, Vladimir Bogomolov, Vyacheslav Kondratyev, who tried to tell the truth about the Great Patriotic War that they knew, the truth that they experienced. And this is understandable — and digital resources, social networks, electronic media from time to time turn to the authors of *Sotnikov*, *Alpine Ballad*, *The Dead Do Not Hurt*, *Hot Snow*, *In August of Forty-Fourth*... Still, the aforementioned writers are quite famous... But, as the recent history of fiction shows, there were other names, there were other works...

Here is what the writer Yuri Prokushev said about the work of Ivan Akulov (1922–1988), “I will not talk about writers’ ‘clips’ and ‘lists’, but in our Russian literature (unfortunately, this was not mentioned in the report, I do not know whether this was discussed in the prose section), in our modern literature, there is a very honest, very talented, chaste and merciless person working in relation to reflecting the truth of soldiers at war, I would say, like Bykau in Belarusian literature. This is the remarkable Russian writer Ivan Akulov. And far, far from everyone knows this name.”

These words were spoken at the Eighth Congress of the USSR Writers’ Union in June 1986 ...A little more than two years later, in December 1988, Ivan Akulov passed away, to a better place... The Eighth Congress of the USSR Writers’ Union was quite interesting both in terms of the writers’ assessments of the time and literature and in terms of the way it was held. The Chairman of the Writers’ Union, Georgy Markov, read only a few pages of his report. He felt ill at the podium. The report was finished by Hero of the Soviet Union, war veteran writer Vladimir Karpov, who later became the First Secretary of the Union. The presidium included the legendary party chief of Soviet

literature, Head of the Culture Department of the CPSU Central Committee, Vasily Filimonovich Shauro (in 1960–1965, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belarus). The presidium also included real writers who have repeatedly defended the truth: Mustai Karim, Chingiz Aitmatov... Andrei Voznesensky, the famous Belarusian prose writer Vyacheslav Adamchik (this is from his speech, “In my opinion, truly great folk art and literary trash are incompatible things...”), the Turkmen novelist, at that time the first deputy chairman of the Union of Writers of the Turkmen SSR Turkish Dzhumageldiev, the future people’s writer of Belarus Ivan Chigrinov (probably, his words woke up many people: “The heroic is always combined with the tragic...”)... Among the delegates were Vasil Bykau, Daniil Granin, Sergei Zalygin, Grigory Baklanov, David Kugultinov, Maxim Tank, Valentin Rasputin... The titles of the reports from the congress speak for themselves: *A High Calling*, *Living with the Concerns of the Modern World*, *Responding to the Call of the Party*, *Responsibility to the Time*...

Yuri Prokushev, speaking at the congress, had in mind first and foremost Ivan Akulov’s novel *Baptism*, a work on which the writer worked for a whole decade — from 1965 to 1975. And then for many more years he wandered around various editorial offices in order to publish this work...

From the novel *Baptism*:

“... “Let’s consider, Colonel, that we have agreed,” said the general and again firmly grabbed the edges of the tabletop, rocking the flimsy table. “And thank you for your party sincerity. Although, it is true, in some ways you have overstepped. And it is good that you understood this. How long have you been at the front?”

“Since October of last year.”

“So you have been thoroughly baptised.”

“It has dragged on for some reason, our baptism.”

“It is true, Colonel, it has dragged on. But there will be a lesson from the ninth to the tenth generation. A milestone

has been set up to measure the centuries.” Vasilevsky stood up and announced with a cheerful face. “Colonel, I studied Russian history from Vasily Nikitovich Tatishchev’s *Russian History*, and he, my dear fellow, said this on this account, “Since baptism is the enlightenment of the soul, therefore approval of the mind and its tools, such as memory, sense and judgment, from which all good in a person’s life comes.” That’s how it is! So I, Colonel, consider you a man of enlightened soul, and you will be managing affairs from the pass any day now. Yes, yes. And Berezov hasn’t shown up? Too bad. Too bad about this general. He was all about the idea of an offensive. We will soon need such people ...”

The platoon commander and later the chief of staff of the battalion of the 137th rifle division experienced war after he graduated from the Tambov Infantry School in 1942. As a very young guy, the combat officer traveled the roads of Belarus. The 137th Bobruisk Rifle Order of Suvorov Division, after the Chernigov-Pripyat operation, in which several tens of thousands of commanders and soldiers of the Workers’ and Peasants’ Red Army perished in August-September 1943, and which led to the liberation of Loyev, went on, liberating Gomel and its environs... And then, at the end of June 1944, the Bobruisk operation, creating conditions for a broad offensive on Minsk... Maybe since then the Belarusian rivers Drut, Dnieper, Dobritsa, Dobasnya, Berezina, Ptich have sunk into the commander’s memory?... Together with the 3rd Army, the ‘Akulov’s’ 137th Rifle Division liberated the ancient Belarusian cities of Novogrudok, Volkovysk...

And what was the post-war fate of Captain Akulov?... During the war, he was wounded twice. After demobilization, he entered the Philological Faculty of the Sverdlovsk Pedagogical Institute. He graduated in 1950. He worked as a teacher, then as a principal of a secondary school. Journalism attracted him. He joined the newspaper *Uralsky Rabochy*. He was in charge of the agricultural department. Later, he worked for the *Ural* magazine. His first story, *Two Roads*, was published in 1958. The work is dedicated to the post-war village. In 1963, the writer was accepted into the Union of Writers of the USSR. Ivan Ivanovich graduated from the Higher Literary Courses. In 1966–1970, Akulov headed the magazine *Uralsky Sledopyt*. And in the late 1960s, he bought a dacha near Sergiev Posad and eventually moved to Moscow. He worked as the Editor-in-Chief of the State Publishing House of the RSFSR. He held the public position of Chairman of the Admissions Committee in the Writers’ Union of Russia. He was a member of the editorial board of the *Sovremennik* publishing house.

The novel *Baptism* was preceded by the novel *In Eternal Debt* — a work that was not much different from many novels of that time. But the depth, the rethinking of many social and spiritual phenomena in Soviet society came with the novel *Baptism*... And then there were other works — the novels *Kasyan Ostudny* and *Make a Mistake, Merciful One*. Fyodor Abramov responded to the novel *Kasyan Ostudny* in a letter to the author, “You have written a

powerful book, Ivan Ivanovich! No one has written about the Russian village on its great border like this before you! And it is understandable why there is not a single sound about it in our bastard press. They made virgin land out of Russia, they made Russia wild, a barren void, and do you know what it was like! Read Ivan Akulov. The characters are beautifully depicted, the peasant soul of the land is uniquely knowledgeable and understands, the language is incredibly rich, the way of life is raised from the very depths, nature is insatiable and multicolored in Akulov’s style, thank you very much from me, a village writer.”



...For the novel *Baptism* in 1980 the writer received the State Prize of the RSFSR named after M. Gorky. Ivan Ivanovich was also awarded the Order of Friendship of Peoples. He did not receive higher awards. It is understandable. Orders are not always given for artistic truth... The writer passed away in December 1988. His short life was only 66 years... He could have lived for many more years. And he probably could have written something else...

Perhaps, with time, the name of the Russian writer who traveled along the front roads of Belarus during the Great Patriotic War will be immortalised here, in one of the cities that he liberated. Incidentally, Ivan Akulov received his military award — the Order of the Patriotic War of the 1st degree — in Belarus: he was awarded by order of the 48th Army on January 20, 1944... Most likely, judging by the combat path of the 137th Rifle Division, the 48th Army, which included the unit, this happened already in the Grodno Region...

Roman Servach

SAMARKAND INVITES YOU FOR A JOURNEY

5 reasons to visit the Jewel of the East



Tashkent. Khiva. Finally, I was lucky enough to visit Samarkand. Majestic, mysterious, authentic. One of the most ancient cities in the world, the same age as Rome and Athens. For more than two thousand years, it has been an important centre of the Great Silk Road between China and Europe, as well as a centre of science and architecture in the Middle Ages. Now Samarkand is a real jewel of the East. It harmoniously combines antiquity and modernity. And this is the real value that cannot leave anyone indifferent. That is why Samarkand attracts many tourists from different countries of the world, including Belarus.

REASON NO. 1. VISA-FREE REGIME

If you are 'tired' of Europe, Central Asia welcomes you. To visit Uzbekistan, citizens of the Republic of Belarus only need their desire. There is a visa-free regime between the countries, there are direct flights. By plane, you can fly to the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent. From there, a high-speed train will comfortably take you to one of the oldest cities in the world – Samarkand – in 2 hours.

When planning a trip, you need to choose the right time. It is ideal to travel in the spring and early summer (from April to June), when the city begins to bloom and turn green with the first rays of warm sunshine. Or in early autumn (September-early October), when it is still warm outside, and the store shelves are full of fresh fruits, vegetables and, of course, nuts, spices, halva and dried fruits.

While you need to be selective when choosing a season, on which the weather and your comfort depend, the values that the Eternal City has remain timeless.

REASON NO. 2. ANCIENT HISTORY

If you want to immerse yourself in the ancient history of the city, which, according to archaeological excavations, is the same age as Rome and Athens, it would be a good idea to prepare a little in advance. And professional guides who speak the same language as you will help you deepen your knowledge on the spot.



You can start with the Afrasiyab Museum of the History of the Foundation of Samarkand, located far from the ancient settlement of the same name — one of the largest archaeological sites in the world. Here you will learn about the history of the foundation and subsequent life of the city, and also see a number of interesting archaeological finds, including household items, ceramics, ossuaries, coins, etc. The gem of the exhibition is the unique frescoes of the Samarkand palace of the 6th-7th centuries. According to the museum staff, archaeologists have examined only 10% of the territory of Samarkand. There is a feeling that the world is in for many more sensations and discoveries.

The further conversation about Samarkand goes well with a visit to the main historical sites and architectural monuments.

REASON NO. 3. OUTSTANDING ARCHITECTURE

Indeed, architecture is history frozen in stone. And in Samarkand there is much to enjoy aesthetically. The favourite historical theme in Uzbekistan is the era of Amir Timur, whom we know better as Tamerlane. The most famous Supreme Amir never lost a single battle and conquered territories from Turkey to India. The significance of his personality for modern Uzbekistan can be well felt

when approaching the monument to Amir Timur. The size is impressive! Nearby is the Gur-Amir mausoleum, where the great leader is buried.

Thanks to Amir Timur, in the second half of the 14th century a strong centralised state was formed, the capital of which was the city of Samarkand. Conditions were created for the economic and cultural development of the country. Majestic mosques, squares, madrassas, mausoleums were built. The traditions of construction were continued by the descendants of Tamerlane. We can see all this today. Many medieval buildings have been preserved by 60-70%, the rest has been reconstructed.

Photo of Registan Square

Photo of the Bibi-Khanyim Mosque

Photo of the Shah-i-Zinda Mausoleum

Photo of the Ulugh Beg Observatory

REASON NO. 4. UZBEK CUISINE

Diverse, tasty, nutritious. A wide range of first and second courses, pastry dishes, drinks. Uzbek cuisine restaurants are so popular that they can be found in Belarus and even in Dubai.

Where to start? Of course, the most famous national dish is Uzbek pilaf. It is included in the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List. For Uzbeks, pilaf is not just a dish. It is part of the culture, traditions, reflecting the strong ties in the Uzbek community. Simply put, pilaf is something that unites. And the excellent result of cooking is accompanied by the word 'the best'. The best lamb, the best rice... Only the best ingredients and love guarantee a unique taste. Imagine, more than 150 types of pilaf exist in Uzbekistan! And as the Uzbeks themselves say: "Tashkent has its own pilaf, and Samarkand has its own: different oil, different spices."

The best pilaf in Samarkand can be tasted at Pilaf center No. 1. It is here that every day about 150 kg of rice are turned into a delicious national dish. If at the entrance you see a sign saying 'pilaf available', then you are here at the right time. If you are greeted by a sign saying 'out of pilaf', you are out of luck.

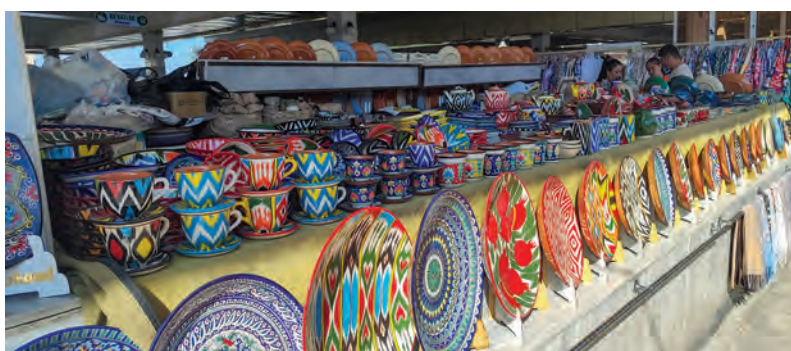
One serving costs 60,000 Uzbek sums (about 15 Belarusian rubles). In addition, you will be brought tea, bread and salad. However, its size is so large that one person, as a rule, is not able to eat it all. Half a serving will be enough. Samarkand residents advise eating it with your hand,



because the Prophet Muhammad himself did just that. And this rule is passed down from generation to generation.

REASON NO. 5. UZBEK CRAFTS

Ceramics, embroidery, carpets, damask steel, Samarkand paper, lacquer painting, wood carving, national clothing and headdresses made of cotton, silk, fur products... Decorative and applied arts are still a brand of Uzbekistan today. Traditions and skills are preserved and passed down from generation to generation. National Uzbek items continue to arouse interest among lovers of Central Asian



culture all over the world. By the way, this success is not accidental. As the manufactures themselves say: “we make the traditional modern, and it resonates with buyers.” It is appropriate to buy what you like in the city of artisans — Samarkand Silk Road. Here you will also be told about the history of this or that type of craft. A wide range of products is available at the most popular Siyob bazaar in Samarkand, and in many souvenir shops. Important: you must bargain at the bazaars. This is traditional for Uzbeks and beneficial for us!

And one more — reason No. 6 — for visiting Samarkand is the world-famous Uzbek hospitality, without which it is impossible to imagine Uzbekistan. As they say in Belarus: “everything starts with people!”

Travel easily and quickly! Expand your horizons and fill your life with new knowledge, special emotions and deep meaning. After all, of course, after a trip, a person always returns home different.

Yekaterina Tumas-Tishkevich
Photo by the author

PRESENTATION

PORTALS WITH MEANING

An exhibition of young Belarusian artists Sergei Ashukha and Mirovlad Palachich has opened at the ArtHaos Art Gallery in the Dana Mall Shopping and Entertainment Centre in Minsk

A space where you are introduced to beauty

I visit Dana Mall from time to time. And, of course, every time I enter through the main entrance, I glance to the right. There, in the ArtHaos gallery, every three to four weeks the exhibitions are updated, introducing us to the work of Belarusian artists. And every time I am visited by a thought: what a wonderful idea came to the minds of the organisers of this space to create an oasis of another world, separated only by transparent glass from the bustling life of Dana Mall, the largest shopping centre in Belarus. As

soon as you enter the gallery, you feel gratitude to the Creator for the fact that you are a person endowed with the ability to feel pleasure not only from quality shopping with its necessary purchases for life, delicious food, the aromas of perfume and coffee... In any case, this happens to me.

Take a look, dear reader, at the ArtHaos gallery. Here our feelings become different, more elevated, subtler. There is silence and sincerity here. There are different vibrations here. Here, from an encounter with high art, our inner



human awakens, who is capable of feeling other energies. Maybe even quantum ones. And to feel, I repeat, gratitude for the fact that admiring the beautiful is within the power of the human nature.

Sergei Ashukha's exposition impressed and pleased me. The works attracted me with their bright colours, cheerfulness, positivity. And riddles. And they were not solved right away. I wanted to linger near almost each one, to understand its meaning. Other visitors behaved the same way, they lingered for a long time near one painting, then, slowly, moved on to another. The author himself was at the presentation, with whom I did not manage to talk right away: he was attacked by journalists. And then Sergei talked with his teacher — Boris Gerlovan, People's Artist of Belarus. And in the meantime, I talked with the director of the gallery Liliya Lukashenko. I was interested in why the gallery was called ArtHaos. After all, chaos is the antithesis of order, an uncertain state...

"Look more closely, the meaning is visible even in our logo, you can see it on the gallery website," explained my interlocutor, "inside the letter 'O' there is a 'U'. Partly, this is a play on words that reflects the essence of our creative space. 'Art', as you know, is art, 'Chaos' is an interweaving of styles and trends that we present in the gallery. And 'House' (from the English 'house' — home) is a place that unites talented people, a place where art itself lives, where its soul is hidden, if I may say so myself. The gallery halls exhibit works of art created in different techniques."

"At the same time, we have never shown theatre artists, set designers. The name of the exhibition is *Origins*. Moreover, Mirovslav Palachich is an artist from Brest who has already had 15 personal exhibitions. But for Sergei Ashukha it is his first personal exhibition. And we are very happy that his works are generating so much interest."

PRESENTATION

Archetypes and insight of Sergei Ashukha

And I am glad. Because I have known Sergei since his studies at the Academy of Arts with the great, I am not afraid of this word, master of scenography Boris Gerlovan, who, as I said above, also came to the presentation of his student's works. Before the Academy, Sergei Ashukha studied at the Gomel State Art College, which he graduated in 2018. There, in Gomel, he was born in 1990. And I met the talented student when I was working on material about Boris Fedoseyevich's



■ At the opening of the Origins exhibition, the director of the ArtHaos gallery Liliya Lukashenko presents the stage designers Mirovslav Palachich and Sergei Ashukha

PRESENTATION

■ Sergei Ashukha



course. At that time, like his other classmates, Sergei was studying the basics of stage design. And although this was already the final year, the kids did not consider themselves masters: the extremely demanding teacher Gerlovan, as they say, schooled them well, revealing the undercurrents of the world of the profession of a stage designer. Now the teacher has every reason to be proud of his student.

Sergei is a laureate of the Ivan Ushakov Prize for the stage design of the performance of the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theater *The Nobleman Zavalnya or Belarus in*

Fantasy Stories based on the book by Yan Barshchevsky, directed by Yelena Ganum (2020), winner of the exhibition project *Autumn Salon with Belgazprombank-2017* (Minsk). In Belarus, he is known as a set designer for performances that he staged in Russia and Estonia. As a student, he drew attention to himself for his thoughtfulness, concentration, and seriousness. Therefore, he successfully graduated from the Academy of Arts in the major field of studies 'painting (theatre and decorative)' in 2018, and in 2020 he obtained a master's degree.



■ People's Artist of Belarus
Boris Gerlovan (in the centre) with students

Sergei's exposition presents 14 canvases, one carpet and figurines made of plaster and paper. They are from different series. Series of paintings include paintings *The Power of Two*, *Cradles*, *Two Lives*, *Guardians*, *Visions*, *Blessings*, *Unity*, *Steps of Life*...

"I create," says Sergei, "my own reality, where vivid emotional experiences become part of artistic communication... Yes, it is virtual, but it is my world, which I felt and embodied.

As art critics have rightly noted, non-verbal means — symbol and allegory — suggest variability of interpretations, building a dialogue between me and the viewer. My works contain archetypes of penetration into the mystery of the intimate, the joy of discovery, vitality... For a modern person, it is important to turn to the origins, to understand the symbolic forms of life. I believe that my works will allow an inquisitive viewer to interpret the symbols, signs, subtexts embedded in them..."

From a mini-interview with an exhibition visitor

"The works of artist Sergei

Ashukha have their own style. And the direction of his searches is visible. What do you think about this?"

"I have been looking at Sergei's work for a long time. You probably know that he has recognition as a young contemporary artist. He is currently searching for his own style. This style is similar, I would say, to some kind of authenticity, and in some ways the elements of the paintings are reminiscent of indigenous folk culture. The



PRESENTATION

works are stylized as pictures of natives. They are slightly angular, the man and woman are represented by symbols... I talked to the artist, asked how he conceives his paintings. He admitted that they are not born right away. At first, the image appears vaguely, then gradually manifests itself in the mind. Sergei begins to work with it, thinks through the details... I would call his works portals to the subconscious. This is something that is not revealed right away. Yes, you see this brightness, this flashiness, but you cannot understand what it is, what is the meaning, whether this is a child's game..."

"Don't you think that children, like no one else, can understand Sergei's works?"

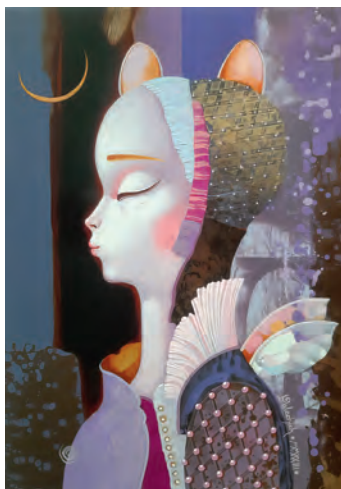
"Rather, to feel, because children are very intuitive. For us, adults, such mysteries are not revealed right away..."

"But they still open?"

"Fortunately, this is true."

"And what was revealed to you personally?"

"First of all, I saw how interestingly the colours play, reminiscent of the colours of Suprematist artists. This is Kazimir Malevich, who, by the way, has Belarusian roots, his family roots are from Kopyl. These are also other



artists who worked in the 20s. It is the colour in the works of Sergei Ashukha that plays a primary role. He refers, as he says, to archetypes. Archetypes are in every person at the subconscious level, and they mean something. For example, dark blue is the colour of non-manifested matter, chaos, from which everything is born. Red is the colour of life. By the way, it is clearly manifested in Belarusian folk ornamentation. Brown, in my perception, is the matter of the manifested world. For Sergei, it is the fabric, its interweaving, from which life grows. It is the earth itself, the basis of everything. The image of a dove in the paintings is golden. I consider it the penetration of the higher spirit into our earthly life. The artist has many meanings connected with the male and female principles, with the birth of life, with its stages... If you look closely, then, say, the figures of the fir trees can be deciphered in different ways. I see in them how, as a result of the fusion of the female and male principles, the evolutionary ascent of the spirit to the higher spheres occurs, and then the dove appears. As a symbol of the spirit that sanctifies everything."

"Do you mean to say that the artist knows that within us, people, there is a spark of divinity, by which we are all connected to each other?"

"And so it can be said. But thanks to the language in which Sergei speaks to us, we can draw our own conclusions. Of course, they will be subjective. And that is normal, because this art is the art of dialogue. Sergei Ashukha invites us to take part in it, but everyone will see something different in his works."

"What do you think about the paintings of Mirovld Palachich?"

"His works also have interesting and deep meanings there, but that's a separate topic. Besides, I wanted, first of all, to talk about Sergei Ashukha, who has, so to speak, a premiere today. I think, Mirovld won't be upset."

Guest from Brest with gratitude

Mirovld Palachich's exposition featured 18 works from different series: *Faces*, *Sphinxes*, *Butterflies*, *Masks*. How did he come across the gallery? He says that a friend advised him to contact ArtHaos directly, so he followed her advice. And Mirovld was very pleased that his paintings would be



■ Mirovld Palachich



■ A keepsake photo. Art Haos Director Liliya Lukashenko with artists and gallery staff

seen in Minsk. Therefore, as he said, his gratitude, as well as Sergei Ashukha's gratitude to the gallery and expressly to the director Liliya Lukashenko, is very great.

Mirovslav Palachich himself is from Novosibirsk. Since 1984, he has lived in Brest. In 1999, he graduated from Brest School No. 10 with an architectural and artistic focus, and in 2004, he graduated from Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, Faculty of Psychology and Pedagogy, Department of Fine Arts, Drawing and Folk Art Crafts, specialising as an artist-teacher. In 2022, he was accepted to the Belarusian Union of Artists. Palachich's works are in private collections in Russia, Germany, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Bulgaria. However, the stage design in his life began as a hobby. And then it became a profession. In Brest, Mirovslav worked for both the puppet theatre and the drama (the author in five performances). Some of the performances are still running.

About the ArtHaos gallery

One of the main goals of the gallery is to present Belarusian art to a wide audience, therefore, its halls exhibit works of art created in different techniques by at least 30 authors — representatives of various trends, movements, schools and genres. In total, the collection of exhibition works includes about three hundred works by more than one hundred and twenty Belarusian artists. Among them are holders of the honorary titles 'People's Artist of Belarus', 'Honoured Artist of

the Republic of Belarus', holders of the medal 'Development of Culture of Belarus', laureates of the State Prize of the Republic of Belarus in Literature, Art and Architecture, the Spiritual Revival Award of the President of the Republic of Belarus, the Prize of the Union State in Literature and Art, certificates of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Belarus, medals of the Belarusian Union of Artists and other awards for merits and creative achievements in the field of culture and fine arts, laureates and diploma winners of national and international competitions, members of the Belarusian Union of Artists, the Belarusian Union of Designers, the Union of Artists of Russia, the Eurasian Art Union and other creative associations, representatives of artistic dynasties. An important part of the exhibition fund is made up of works by young authors, mainly painters, whose work reflects their commitment to classical artistic traditions, as well as the search for new forms in the embodiment of the author's concept. All works presented in the ArtHaos gallery are available for purchase.

Striving for the most complete disclosure of talent, unique artistic vision, technical mastery of each artist to the viewer, the gallery has already held 26 exhibitions. Not confined to its own exhibition space, ArtHaos regularly provides an opportunity for residents and guests of different regions of our country to get to know the work of Belarusian artists.

Valentina Zhdanovich

Photo by the author

SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE IMAGE OF THE CAPITAL

The city, which has been forming its metropolitan identity since the first half of the 20th century and is represented in the works of Belarusian artists of that era, is the main character of the exhibition project *And You Will Be Beautiful, Our Ancient Minsk*. The exhibition in the main museum of the country united no less than works from the collection of the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus, the State Museum of the History of Belarusian Literature, the Belarusian State Archive-Museum of Literature and Art, the National Centre for Contemporary Arts of the Republic of Belarus and presented the image of the city in two thematic sections: *The Birth of the Capital* and *Phoenix City*.



EXPOSITION OF INTERESTING DISCOVERIES



“Even from afar it appears before you as a majestic and bright poem of stone, glass and creative flight. The city shimmers, sparkles with all the shades of the brightest and richest colours, rises with modern beautiful houses, whispers with young alleys, spreads out with carpets of lawns and flower beds.” These are the words that begin a small guidebook of 1975 to the hero city of Minsk. This is how it appears to residents and tourists today. The city with almost a thousand-year history, having survived difficult stages of formation, having suffered terrible destruction, acquired its recognizable appearance in the last century. This century turned out to be generous with the Minsk architectural landscape, which preserved in lines and colours the images of familiar and already forgotten city districts.



EXPOSITION OF INTERESTING DISCOVERIES



Time has not left artists indifferent

Already in 1919, having received the status of the capital, Minsk became the centre of the artistic life of the republic. The new status opened up new opportunities. Artists from all corners of the country flocked to the city. Competitions and exhibitions were organised. Artists were needed at new enterprises, in schools and in publishing houses. The design of literary works, newspapers, workers' clubs, canteens, libraries, signs, and mass demonstrations was in demand. In 1921, the Main Political Education Directorate was created, which was a structure regulating artistic life in



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the city and the republic. Studios were opened, for example, in the same 1921, the Free Academy of Mikhail Filippovich began its work. At the same time, the Fine Art workshops were actively expanding their activities. The range of possibilities of the workshops was from creating portraits and posters to toys and tapestries.

Life in Minsk was transformed. It was at this time that the genre of urban landscape gained popularity, the pioneers of which in the Belarusian art of the 20th century can be called Yazep Drozdovich, Mikhail Filippovich, Meer Akselrod, Nikolai Duchits. Minsk, conveyed in their landscapes with documentary accuracy, is a city with narrow streets and low houses, with miniature courtyards and gardens, over which



the towers of cathedrals rise as dominant features. A city in which you can go down a cobblestone street, admiring the panorama of the Upper Town (Yazep Drozdovich's *View from the Hospital Garden on Freedom Square*, 1919) and find yourself in the area of the Lower Market, surrounded by densely built-up houses pressed tightly against each other, where a violinist performs on the street, entertaining local children (Meer Akselrod's *Concert*, 1929). Or go to the hairdresser's on the corner of Lenina and Internatsionalnaya streets, reading all the signs of new stores and workshops on the way (*Minsk. Corner of Lenina and Internatsionalnaya Streets* in 1928 by Nikolai Duchits, 1929). This is a city of the 19th century more than the 20th, a city hidden in its cosy world before grandiose transformations.

EXPOSITION OF INTERESTING DISCOVERIES



A completely different emotion is conveyed by the works of Anatoly Tychina from the 1930s. Quick drawings drawn from life with gouache and ink (*Minsk. Sovetskaya Street in the 1930s*, *Old Minsk. Lenina Street*, 1931) show the image of a changing city in the glow of electric lamps and the dynamics of public transport, a city dressed in the rhythm and energy of the capital.

The 1910s — 1940s were the period of industrialization and the formation of a large industrial centre in the Lyakhovka

area (today's Oktyabrskaya Street) for Minsk. The industrial image of the capital inspired the young artist Arkady Astapovich, who created a series of landscapes depicting the factory buildings of Minsk plants. The graphic sheets *Factory Motif*, 1922; *Factory*, 1922; *Factory Buildings*, 1926, in Astapovich's characteristic monochrome, refined aesthetics and generalised forms, convey the appearance of the new capital, which had gained a rapid pace of development.



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The main theme is the feat of reviving the capital

The growth prospects envisaged in the 1930s were not destined to come true. The Great Patriotic War that began almost completely wiped Minsk off the face of the Earth. ... Minsk residents who returned from evacuation could not recognise the city in the first days after its liberation. Having survived the terrible 1,100 days of occupation, it appeared before them as scorched earth, with brick chimneys sticking out in place of former wooden buildings, the remains of facades and foundations, twisted reinforcement and a pile of stones. Ruined Minsk becomes an important subject in the work of the front-line artist Monos Monoszon, as well as those who survived the occupation and saw the destruction of the city with their own eyes (Nikolai Duchits, Valentin Volkov, Anatoly Tychina).

Yes, immediately after the liberation of the city from the fascist invaders in 1944, the process of forming a new image of the capital began. In just ten years, Minsk has been transformed beyond recognition: a garden city has blossomed on the site of the ashes.

The second section of the exhibition, Phoenix City, was dedicated to the feat of reviving the capital. It was opened by the diploma work of the People's Artist of the BSSR Vladimir Stelmashonok, *Young Builders of Minsk*, which the author created in 1957. Energetic, with weathered but happy faces, the assembly girls confidently walk along the newly erected main city thoroughfare, today's Independence Avenue. The landscapes of the main Minsk avenue, familiar to the modern viewer, seen through the eyes of a strolling city dweller or through the windshield of a bus, are a frequent motif in the bright, warm watercolours of David



Genin, Anatoly Volkov, and Lev Leitman, executed in the aesthetics of post-war socialist realism. The artists create a ceremonial, elevated image of a city that has recovered from the horrors of war, where the sun always shines and the sweet scent of blooming linden trees hangs in the air. The artist's loving look at the city is also conveyed in the well-known series of linocuts by Anatoly Tychyna from the 1950s, created on the basis of photographs taken by the artist himself. The charm of these works lies in the special soft light and delicate colour combinations, which, together with the well-chosen composition of the stop-frame, create the appearance of a solemn, enchanting and at the same time mysterious city.

The paintings show the diversity of urban life

With the advent of the 1960s, a tendency towards experimentation emerged among artists of both the older generation (Sergey Katkov, Izrail Basov, Lev Leitman) and



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the younger generation, who had just graduated from art schools. In the canvases of this period, one can observe both the familiar image of the city with its streets and townspeople hurrying about their business, and see a different perspective of Minsk. In it, the authors not only depict the life of the city in its rapidly changing rhythm, but also give the captured scenes a different sound. Thus, Leonid Dudarenko nostalgically paints the old houses of Nemiga 'huddled' together, constrained by medieval tightness, inexorably displaced by the rapidly developing new city. The same idea, but in a different embodiment, is carried by the work *Minsk. Nemiga* by Viktor Varlamov (year of creation — 1967), which captured the construction of the capital's Fashion House and the process of changing the historical environment of the Nemiga district. Medieval Minsk can also be seen in the almost phantasmagorical works of Georgy Skripnichenko, where the feeling of the patina of time is amazingly figuratively conveyed, the illusion that buildings, people, the street are floating and dissolving in this temporary space. In general, through the prism of the author's perception, the architectural buildings, avenues and streets familiar and recognizable to the residents of Minsk, received their new image, captured in various forms of art: painting, graphics, sculpture, decorative and applied forms.

The iconic buildings of the new Minsk — the Main Post Office, the station square, the Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, GUM, Victory Square, the ensemble of houses along the avenue (then named after Stalin) — seen from different angles and presented in a variety of painting and



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graphic techniques, as well as in decorative and applied arts, are found in the works of Yevgeny Krasovsky, Sergei Katkov, Fyodor Zilbert, Vladimir Prokofiev, Antonina Abramova, Grigory Vitkovsky, Semyon Gerus, Boris Malkin.

An amazing place where millions of destinies intertwine

The architectural landscapes displayed at the exhibition are a kind of summary of the progressive changes in Minsk. The city, seen in its own way by artists of various aesthetic trends, each of whom in an individual manner conveyed the atmosphere of several decades: the formation, destruction, restoration and development of the capital. Today, the works of these masters represent not only artistic value, but are also unique documents of the era, which give many the opportunity to be surprised and experience the joy of recognizing the corners of their beloved city.

Without exaggeration, this city is an amazing place where millions of destinies and events intertwine. It concentrates in itself a complex energy, which is reflected in all sorts of artistic forms, implemented and presented at the current exhibition, not just anywhere, but in the National Art Museum. You see how visual rhymes arise in the silhouettes of houses, the textures of walls and asphalt, shadows, rain puddles and the flickering light of a traffic light. In the 1910s—1940s, masters of different generations witnessed the transformation of a small provincial centre into a model Soviet capital. New demands of society and original artistic techniques allowed Belarusian graphic artists and painters to reflect the complex process of the city's transformation in their own way.

Veniamin Mikheyev



СПЯВАЙ ДУША НАРОДНАЯ

Своеасаблівая творчая стажыроўка стала выдатнай дыялогавай пляцоўкай

– Няважна, ці свеціць вам паўднёвае сонца, ці трашчаць сібірскія маразы, ці шумяць салёныя хвалі Балтыкі, усе вы застанецца дзецьмі нашай чыстай і ласкавай зямлі, – з такімі словамі міністр культуры Рэспублікі Беларусь Анатоль Маркевіч звярнуўся да беларусаў замежжа, якія прыязджалі на творчую стажыроўку. З 2016 года праводзяцца праграмы, падчас якіх нашы суайчыннікі наведваюць арганізацыі культуры, установы адукацыі, дзе навучаюць будучых артыстаў, танцораў, рамеснікаў, захаваль-

нікаў фальклору. Таксама ўдзельнікі стажыровак пераймаюць вопыт у майстроў, разам з імі робяць сувеніры, плятуць паясы, знаёмяцца з прафесійнымі калектывамі і носьбітамі народных традыцый. Як заўважыла дырэктар Рэспубліканскага цэнтра нацыянальных культур Вольга Якабсон, запыт на такую вучобу з кожным годам расце. Таму сёлета і было прынята рашэнне павялічыць колькасць стажыровак, а яшчэ і зрабіць іх вузка накіраванымі, для таго, каб кожны ўдзельнік мог максімальна





■ Міністр культуры Анатоль Маркевіч

Беларусь упершыню, альбо не быў у краіне ўжо даволі працяглы час.

Як заўважыў міністр культуры, перад пачаткам дыялогавай пляцоўкі, кожная такая сустрэча надзвычай важная. Праграма стажыровак вельмі насычаная, кожны раз перад арганізатарамі ставіцца задача паказаць суайчыннікам самае лепшае. Творчыя заняткі праводзяцца не толькі ў сталіцы, але і ў райцэнтрах, невялікіх гарадках, аграгарадках, таму госці могуць заўважыць, што кожны куток здольны ўразіць. “Мы нічога не хаваем, а паказваем рэальнае жыццё, – заўважыў Анатоль Маркевіч. – За мяжой людзі могуць чуць пра нашу краіну розную

інфармацыю, а тут у іх ёсць магчымасць пабачыць усё на ўласныя вочы – і стэрэатыпы ламаюцца”. Не менш важна і тое, што па вяртанні ў краіны пражывання беларусы дзеляцца сваім захапленнем ад Беларусі, а іх расказы натхняюць ужо іншых людзей, утым ліку прадстаўнікоў іншых нацыянальнасцяў наведваць блакітнавокую краіну. Напрыклад, беларусы Латвіі, з горада Ліепая арганізавалі ўжо больш двух дзясяткаў экскурсій у Беларусь з насычанай праграмай, калі за выходныя дні госці наведваюць музеі, канцэрты, прыгожыя мясціны. Міністр адзначыў ролю, якую сёння адыгрывае галіна культуры: “Гэта стратэгічны рэсурс любой дзяржавы. Культура стаіць на варце духоўных каштоўнасцяў,



атрымаць менавіта тыя веды, якія неабходныя для работы, якімі будзе дзяліцца ў творчых калектывах, клубах. Так гэтая стажыроўка стала спеўнай – прыехалі кіраўнікі, салісты і ўдзельнікі вакальных калектываў.

НА ВАРЦЕ ТРАДЫЦЫЙНЫХ КАШТОЎНАСЦЯЎ

Абавязкова ў рамках стажыроўкі праходзіць дыялогавая пляцоўка, падчас якой суайчыннікі сустракаюцца з міністрам культуры. Гэта выдатная магчымасць абмяняцца думкамі, пачуць пра тое, як развіваецца сфера культуры, якія задачы сёння перад ёй ставяцца. Суайчыннікі могуць раскажаць пра свае здабыткі і патрэбы, падзяліцца ўражаннямі не толькі аб стажыроўцы, але і аб краіне наогул, бо сярод удзельнікаў стажыровак ёсць і тыя, хто прыязджае ў

традыцый, што сёння вельмі важна, бо існуе вельмі шмат выклікаў рознага кшталту”.

Гэтым разам на дыялогавай пляцоўцы міністр узняў такое пытанне, як выхаванне падрастаючага пакалення, і звярнуў увагу на тое, што сёння сацыяльныя сеткі моцна ўплываюць на свядомасць маладых людзей, калі навіязваюцца чужыя паняцці, рэкламуюцца небяспечныя захапленні, а блогеры з “Цік-Тока” часам маюць большы аўтарытэт, чым настаўнікі, дактары, паэты, артысты. “Негатыўным” з’явам трэба ствараць заслон. Простыя забароны тут не спрацуюць, куды больш эфектыўным з’яўляецца эвалюцыйны шлях, калі моладзь паступова знаёміцца з беларускімі народнымі традыцыямі, здабыткамі. Міністр раскажаў, што ў Беларусі робіцца ў гэтым кірунку. Так, адзін раз на месяц школьнікі могуць

бесплатна наведваць музеі, прынята рашэнне аб будаўніцтве новага гістарычнага музея, з'явіліся новыя святы, каб прывіваць сямейныя каштоўнасці (Дзень маці, Дзень бацькі, Т Тыдзень бацькоўскай любові). Міністр падзякаваў беларусам замежжа за тое, што яны захоўваюць культуру і прывіваюць яе дзецям. “Па адчуванні – вы замежнікі толькі па пашпарце, а хутчэй – жыхары восьмага рэгіёна (побач са сталіцай і шасцю абласцямі). Хочацца, каб вашы дзеці, унукі, праўнукі таксама захоўвалі беларускасць, песні, мову, характар і адносіны да жыцця”, – выказаў пажадані Анатоль Маркевіч.

У дыялогавай пляцоўцы ўзяў удзел і Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак. Ён звярнуў увагу на знакавасць месца, абранага для сустрэчы, – яна праходзіла ў Дзяржаўным музеі гісторыі Вялікай Айчыннай вайны. Упаўнаважаны нагадаў, што ў апарце ўжо стала добрай традыцыяй напярэдадні Дня Перамогі ўшаноўваць памяць людзей, якія вызвалілі нашу зямлю ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў, ускладаць кветкі да Вечнага агню. На ўрачыстую цырымонію запрашаюцца прадстаўнікі розных нацыянальнасцяў, якія жывуць у нашай краіне, а таксама беларусы замежжа, якія ў гэты час у ёй гасцююць. “Нягледзячы на тое, што з многімі з вас нас раздзяляюць сотні і нават тысячы кіламетраў, нам заўсёды прыемна чуць, як шмат вамі робіцца для захавання беларускай культуры”, – звярнуўся Аляксандр Румак да суайчыннікаў і расказаў, што сёлета падзяліцца сваімі напрацоўкамі пры асабістых сустрэчах у апарце Упаўнаважанага прыязджалі прадстаўнікі аб’яднанняў беларусаў Расіі, Арменіі, Казахстана, Латвіі, Эстоніі, таксама падзякаваў беларусам замежжа з розных куткоў свету, якія дасылаюць матэрыялы, фатаграфіі аб сваёй рабоце.

“ДОБРЫ ВЯЧОР – ДОБРЫМ ЛЮДЗЯМ”

Дыялогавай пляцоўка стала адным з заключных мерапрыемстваў творчай стажыроўкі, а вось распачалася яна з майстар-класа ў Нацыянальным акадэмічным Вялікім тэатры оперы і балета. Тут адбылася творчая сустрэча з калектывам Нацыянальнага акадэмічнага хору Рэспублікі Беларусь імя Г.І. Цітовіча. Пасля спеўных практыкаванняў “вучняў” чакаў шыкоўны сюрпрыз – невялікі канцэрт, падрыхтаваны знакамітым

харавым калектывам, дзе гасцей цёпла сустракалі словамі песні “Добры вачор – добрым людзям”. А яшчэ былі знакамітая “Лявоніха”, купальскія спевы і знаёмства з абрадавымі вясельнымі песнямі. Пра гэтыя заняткі пазней на прэс-канферэнцыі ў Нацыянальным прэс-цэнтры, адна з удзельніц стажыроўкі Наталля Спаялава, кіраўнік ансамбля «Жывая крыніца», якая прадстаўляла беларусаў Прымор’я, сказала, што была вельмі ўражана ўзроўнем заняткаў. Прызналася, што ставіла сабе плюсы і мінусы, убачыла, як многа яшчэ трэба працаваць, узяла на заўвагу некалькі практыкаванняў, якія трэба рабіць, каб развіваць пеўчы апарат. Пакарылі яе таксама выкладчыкі і студэнты Універсітэта культуры, здзівіла з якой любоўю і на якім высокім ўзроўні студэнты нават малодшых курсаў паказвалі фальклорны матэрыял: “Гэта судакрананне з прыгожым. Адчуванне было, што я праз фальклорную спадчыну ўбачыла гісторыю беларускага народа. Я сабрала матэрыял, вязу песні, якія будуць у рэпертуары майго калектыва. Праз іх можна паказваць традыцыі, гісторыю і тое, наколькі беларускі народ любіць сваю зямлю”.

Узбагаціцца рэпертуар і харавога калектыва “Світанак” з Прымор’я. Гэта паабяцаў яго кіраўнік Канстанцін Чабатар. Ён расказаў, што апошнія пяць гадоў працуе з дзецьмі ў школе мастацтваў. Наш суайчыннік выказаў гатоўнасць працягваць “вучобу” ў Беларусі, каб далей дзяліцца гэтымі ведамі ў сябе дома, бо ён не толькі спявае, але і на музычных інструментах іграе, можа і сам дыванок зрабіць.



Удзельнікаў стажыроўкі ўразілі не толькі сустрэчы, якія прайшлі ў сталіцы, але і знаёмства з аўтэнтычнымі калектывамі падчас паездкі ў Слаўгарадскі і Дрыбінскі раёны. Юрый Мікеенка, які прадстаўляў калектыў “Купалінка” клайпедскай дыяспары “Крыніца”, падзякаваў за тое, што ўдзельнікаў стажыроўкі сустрэлі ў рэгіёнах з адкрытасцю і гасціннасцю, высока ацаніў не толькі выканальніцкае, але і кулінарнае майстэрства гаспадынь, якія ўмеюць нават са звычайных прадуктаў зрабіць «шэдэўральныя» стравы. Прынамсі, на адной з ранейшых стажыровак ужо была ўзнята ідэя аб правядзенні кулінарных майстар-класаў. Цудоўна было б стварыць і зборнік з рэцэптамі беларусаў замежжа, якія яны перадаюць у сваіх сям’ях і якімі



здзіўляюць падчас свят, што праходзяць у краінах іх пражывання. Наш суайчыннік ад маці пераняў рэцэпт пышных бліноў на кефіры. Сябры, родныя і ўдзельнікі майстар-класаў вельмі любяць гэтыя бліны з верашчакай, рэбрамі, кілбасой, пханай пальцам. Юрый прызнаўся, што ў ансамблі “Купалінка” спявае ўжо два гады. Ён вырас на песнях Мулявіна, і ў калектыве яго адразу пакарыла асабліва атмасфера. Да таго ж любоў да песні ў Юрыя ад маці, якая паходзіла з Івянца, а сам ён нарадзіўся ў Клімавічах.

Але ў “Купалінцы” спяваюць не толькі беларусы. І, як высветлілася падчас знаёмстваў з удзельнікамі стажыроўкі, беларускія суполкі становяцца месцам прыцягнення для многіх творчых людзей. Так, прадстаўнікі беларусаў Kryma, падзяліліся, што ў іх фальклорным калектыве “Сяброўкі” па-беларуску спявае нават татарка. Анжаліка Шляхціна, якая прыехала на стажыроўку з Kryma па нацыянальнасці руская, але замужам за беларусам. Яна

прызналася, што таксама палюбіла беларускія песні. А старшыня мясцовай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі ў Феадосіі Людміла Сердзюкова заўважыла, што беларусы, іх калектывы падабаюцца ўсім – можа таму, што ў душы іх кіраўнікі і ўдзельнікі захавалі любоў да зямлі, дзеляцца ёй у песнях, вершах. А тое, што ідзе, як кажуць, ад сэрца не можа не прыцягваць.

Наталля Зайцава з Петраздаводска, падчас стажыроўкі яшчэ паспела павучыцца працаваць з цымбаламі, уласна яе і адпраўлялі ў Беларусь з заданнем навучыцца настраіваць цымбалы. Маці жанчыны – з Пскоўскай вобласці, а муж – беларус. Яна прызналася, калі паглыбілася ў беларускую культуру, адчула, што гэта цэлы сусвет.

Кіраўнік народнага ансамбля “Калінушка” рэгіянальнай нацыянальна-культурнай аўтаноміі “Калінінградская зямляцтва” Дзмітрый Гарны нарадзіўся ў Маладзечне, там скончыў кансерваторыю, а пасля працягнуў адукацыю ў Расіі. Штогод яго калектыў удзельнічае ў фестывалі беларускай нацыянальнай культуры “Белыя росы”.

А вось намеснік кіраўніка музычнага калектыва “Родныя карані” намеснік Лідзія Халычанка, якая прыехала з Ерэвана, нарадзілася ў Арменіі, але спявае беларускія песні ўжо 13 гадоў – спачатку выступала ў дзіцячым Асамблі “Дударочки”, займалася ў лялькавым тэатры, а сёння з’яўляецца салісткай у дарослым калектыве.

Удзельніцы ансамбля “Вясёлка” з Астаны прызналіся, што ў Казахстане дзякуючы беларускай суполцы “Радзіма” ў іх вельмі насычанае культурнае жыццё, артыстаў часта запрашаюць на розныя канцэрты, часта выступаюць у пасольстве.

Шырока на стажыроўцы была прадстаўлена Латвія, спасцігаць песенныя сакрэты прыехалі прадстаўнікі музычных калектываў з розных гарадоў. Дарэчы, латвійскія калектывы – частыя госці і на фестывалях у Беларусі. Напрыклад, сёлета яны прыязджалі на свята ў Шаркаўшчыне, летась – у Паставах.

Жанна Буйніцкая, кіраўнік ансамбля “Паўлінка” (Латвія) замужам за беларусам. “Як многія, народжаныя ў СССР, я сваю радзіму страціла, мне няма да каго прыехаць, прытуліцца”, – падзялілася жанчына сваёй гісторыяй і прызналася, што “прыкіпела да Беларусі”. У калектыве яна сустрэла блізкіх па духу людзей. Дарэчы, у наступным годзе ансамблю “Паўлінка” спаўняецца 25 гадоў. “Каб патрапіць у калектыў, не трэба праходзіць ніякага спеўнага іспыту, мне галоўнае, каб чалавек хацеў спяваць, выражаць пачуцці”, – заўважае Жанна Буйніцкая.

Таксама ў стажыроўцы ўзялі ўдзел беларусы Эстоніі, Неапалі, розных рэгіёнаў Расіі.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота аўтара

МІЖКУЛЬТУРНАЯ КАМУНІКАЦЫЯ

Новыя падыходы да вывучэння кітайскай мовы

V Беларуска-кітайскі адукацыйны форум “Адзін пояс – адзін шлях”, які прайшоў у Мінскім дзяржаўным лінгвістычным універсітэце, сабраў прадстаўнікоў навучальных устаноў, дзе школьнікі і студэнты вывучаюць кітайскую мову і культуру, кіраўнікоў інстытутаў Канфуцыя, а таксама калег з кітайскіх універсітэтаў.

Форум ужо стаў выдатнай пляцоўкай, дзе прадстаўнікі сістэмы адукацыі дзеляцца вопытам, абмяркоўваюць пытанні выкладання кітайскай мовы, гавораць пра сучасныя тэхналогіі навучання і шукаюць кірункі далейшага супрацоўніцтва. У 2016 годзе першы форум прайшоў пад дэвізам “Беларусь і Кітай: мы разам”, у 2018-м годзе ўдзельнікі абмяркоўвалі пытанні кітаязнаўства, у 2019 – інавацыі ў выкладанні кітайскай мовы, а ў 2023-м далучыліся да міжнароднага праекта “Адзін пояс – адзін шлях”, менавіта праз прызму якога разглядаюцца актуальныя пытанні ў сферы адукацыі.

“Мы разумеем, наколькі гэта важна для эканомікі нашых краін, і хацелі б, вырашаючы адукацыйныя задачы, аказаць усямерную падтрымку развіццю сацыяльных і эканамічных кірункаў”, – заўважыла рэктар Мінскага дзяржаўнага лінгвістычнага ўніверсітэта Наталля Лапцева.

На базе ўніверсітэта створаны Інстытут Канфуцыя. Адным з яго праектаў з’яўляецца работа цэнтра эфектыўнай камунікацыі, дзе плануецца стварыць пляцоўку для развіцця кампетэнцый у міжкультурнай камунікацыі Беларусі і Кітая.

Сёння ва ўсім свеце інстытуты Канфуцыя сталі асноўным каналам па распаўсюджванні кітайскай мовы і культуры. Цяпер гэта робіцца не толькі праз праграмы навучання мове. Інстытуты праводзяць конкурсы для школьнікаў і студэнтаў, рэалізуюць адукацыйныя і даследчыцкія праекты па праблемацы “Адзін пояс – адзін шлях”.

Як заўважыла падчас адкрыцця форуму Наталля Лапцева, важным кірункам развіцця сумеснай дзейнасці з’яўляецца стварэнне альянсаў універсітэтаў у мэтах пашырэння міжнароднага адукацыйнага супрацоўніцтва. Так, у 2023 годзе створана



кітайска-беларуская асацыяцыя ўніверсітэтаў, куды ўвайшло больш 80 вышэйшых навучальных устаноў Беларусі і Кітая. На другім пасяджэнні асацыяцыі ў 2024 годзе быў сфарміраваны механізм кластарай. Беларуска-кітайскі адукацыйны форум павінен стаць адной з перспектывных пляцовак для арганізацыі ўзаемадзеяння членаў асацыяцыі і перш за ўсё ўдзельнікаў кластара “Дыялог цывілізацый”, у рабоце якога МДЛУ выступае каардынатарам з беларускага боку.

Алена **Дзядзюля**
Фота аўтара

БІАГРАФІЯ ДЫЯСПАРЫ – ЧАСТКА БІАГРАФІІ КРАІНЫ

**У выдавецтве “Беларуская навука” пабачыла свет кніга
“Малдаване Беларусі: этнакультурная ідэнтычнасць і інтэграцыя”**

“У Беларусі пражываюць прадстаўнікі каля 150 нацыянальнасцяў. У нацыянальным складзе насельніцтва малдаване – на адзіннацым месцы. Яны задзейнічаны ў эканоміцы нашай краіны, у розных сферах грамадскага жыцця. Прадстаўнікі дыяспары займаюць кіруючыя пасады на прадпрыемствах, працуюць у сістэме аховы здароўя, яскрава сябе паказваюць падчас культурных мерапрыемстваў, фестываляў, выступаюць на дабрачынных канцэртах у сацыяльных установах. У рамках дзяржаўнай праграмы “Культура Беларусі” ім аказваецца падтрымка, шыюцца нацыянальныя строі”, – раскажаў Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Аляксандр Румак падчас прэзентацыі кнігі “Малдаване Беларусі: этнакультурная ідэнтычнасць і інтэграцыя”. Ён падкрэсліў, што сёння ў Беларусі прадстаўнікоў розных народаў сустракаюць не па нацыянальнасці, не па веравызнанні, тут цэнняцца адкрытасць і дабрыйня.



■ Упаўнаважаны па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў
Аляксандр Румак



■ Елізавета Квілінкова

Аўтар унікальнага выдання – доктар гістарычных навук, дацэнт, вядучы навуковы супрацоўнік Інстытута мастацтвазнаўства, этнаграфіі і фальклору НАН Беларусі Елізавета Квілінкова. Яе манаграфія – першае даследаванне, прысвечанае малдаўскай дыяспары Беларусі. Дарэчы, падобных прац няма ні ў адной з рэспублік постсавецкай прасторы.

Елізавета Квілінкова прыехала ў Беларусь з Малдовы, дзе яе муж працаваў паслом Рэспублікі Беларусь. Менавіта ён падказаў ёй узяцца за даследаванне этнасаў. Да гэтага, напрыклад, яна пісала пра беларусаў Малдовы і гагаўзаў. Новую тэму вучоная пачала распрацоўваць з 2020 года. Дзякуючы падтрымцы Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў, а таксама старшыні таварыства сяброўства “Беларусь–Малдова” Віктара Сарачана, які ў 2017–2022 гадах працаваў надзвычайным

ДЫПЛОМ З БЕЛАРУСІ — УЙГУРСКАМУ ПІСЬМЕННІКУ

У сталіцы Башкартастана прайшоў
Форум творчай і навуковай інтэлігенцыі
дзяржаў-удзельніц
Садружнасці Незалежных Дзяржаў

Упершыню галоўная гуманітарная падзея прайшла ў рэгіёне Расійскай Федэрацыі. Гэта ў некаторым плане і сведчанне значнага ўкладу Башкартастана ў развіццё агульнай сусветнай культуры, пашырэнне міждзяржаўных культурных стасункаў.

Удзел у Форуме прыняў і намеснік дырэктара – галоўнага рэдактара Выдавецкага дома “Звязда”, намеснік старшыні Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі, публіцыст і перакладчык Аляксей Чарота. На адной з пляцовак форуму ён уручыў Дыплом Выдавецкага дома “Звязда” вядомаму ўйгурскаму пісьменніку з Казахстана Авуту Масімаву.

– Удзячны беларускім калегам за прыязнае стаўленне да маёй сціплай працы на ніве мастацкага перакладу, – пракаменціраваў падзею ўйгурскі пісьменнік. – У сваім трохтомным зборы твораў, дзе знайшлося месца перакладам казак і аповядаў пісьменнікаў розных краін, я прадставіў і пераўвасабленні з беларускай літаратуры. У прыватнасці, у трэцім томе надрукаваны казкі Кацярыны Хадасевіч-Лісавой, Людмілы Рублеўскай, Алеся Карлюкевіча. Знаёмства чытачоў з Казахстана, а таксама з іншых краін, дзе чытаюць і па-ўйгурску, з беларускай дзіцячай літаратурай прадоўжу і надалей. Прыемна было пазнаёміцца з беларускай дэлегацыяй на такім прадстаўнічым форуме, рады стасункам з Аляксеем Іванавічам Чаротам, ад якога шмат што новага даведаўся пра сучасны літаратурны працэс на радзіме Купалы і Коласа.

А ў Беларусь Авут Масімаў перадаў кнігі ўйгурскіх пісьменнікаў, выдадзеных у Казахстане. Перадаў і прывітанне ад доктара філалагічных навук Алімжана Хамраева, які шмат піша пра ўйгурска-беларускія літаратурныя сувязі. Выступае, дарэчы, Алімжан Хамраеў і ў беларускай літаратурна-мастацкай перыёдыцы. Нагадаем, што на ўйгурскую мову перакладзены і славуты верш-гімн народнага песняра Беларусі Янкі Купалы “А хто там ідзе?”. Будзем спадзявацца, што прыйдуць да ўйгурскага чытача і творы Максіма Багдановіча, Максіма Гарэцкага, Кузьмы Чорнага, Уладзіміра Караткевіча, Аркадзя Куляшова, Якуба Коласа, Пімена Панчанкі, Рыгора Барадуліна, іншых беларускіх класікаў.

Сяргей **Шычко**

і паўнамоцным паслом Рэспублікі Малдова ў Беларусі, яна змагла пазнаёміцца і зрабіць апытанне прадстаўнікоў дыяспары. Было праведзена больш ста гутарак, і ні ў адной з іх не было негатыўных водгукаў. “Гэта гісторыя не толькі малдаўскай дыяспары, але і Беларусі, часткай якой сталі яе прадстаўнікі, – адзначыла Елізавета Квілінкова. – Я заўважыла, што праз этнічныя супольнасці яркая прасочваецца палітыка беларускай дзяржавы ў адносінах да нацыянальных меншасцяў. Тут не ўзнікае ніякіх нацыянальных пытанняў, людзі могуць рэалізоўвацца ў адпаведнасці са сваімі дыпламамі. Гэта сведчыць пра многае”. У кнізе расказваецца пра традыцыі і культуру малдаван, якія жывуць ва ўмовах дыяспары. Усё ж, адна справа займацца захаваннем спадчыны на радзіме, іншая – у далечыні. Дзякуючы атрыманым у рэспандэнтаў звесткам накоплівалася інфармацыя пра час, прычыны і шляхі перасялення малдаван. Дарэчы, першыя даныя аб малдаванах Беларусі прадстаўлены ў перапісе насельніцтва БССР за 1926 год. Паводле яго малдаван пражывала тады ўсяго 63 чалавекі (у канцы 1930-х – 396 чалавек)... Сёння побач з беларусамі і прадстаўнікамі іншых народаў жыве каля пяці тысяч малдаван. Хтосьці прыехаў пасля вайны, многія атрымлівалі тут адукацыю, шмат тых, хто прыехаў у пошуках працы.

Таксама ў кнізе даследчыца хацела перадаць асаблівасці нацыянальнага характару, кухню, працэс адаптацыі і інтэграцыі, тое, як малдаване ўспрымаюць беларусаў і наадварот. Паказаны і ўнёсак малдаван Беларусі ў сацыяльна-эканамічнае і культурнае развіццё.

Гісторыя малдаўскай дыяспары пададзена не толькі праз тэкст, але і праз фатаграфіі, іх тут больш 350.

Ганна **Трошына**
Фота Елізаветы Голад

БЕЛАРУСЬ АДЗІНАЯ: ВЫСНОВЫ НА ПАРАЎНАННЯХ

Над выставачным праектам “Беларусь адзіная” загадчыца сектара фатаграфічных даследаванняў Нацыянальнага гістарычнага музея Святлана Харужых працавала разам з гісторыкам, калекцыянерам, лаўрэатам прэміі “За духоўнае адраджэнне” Уладзімірам Ліхадзедавым. Работа вялася ў рамках Гранта Прэзідэнта Рэспублікі Беларусь. Сёння вынікі такога супрацоўніцтва можна пабачыць у кнізе “Беларусь Адзіная”, першы экзэмпляр якой быў перададзены кіраўніку дзяржавы Аляксандру Лукашэнку. Пазнаёміцца з вынікамі праекта можна і ў Нацыянальным гістарычным музеі, дзе працуе аднайменная выстаўка.

У экспазіцыі прадстаўлена некалькі соцень фатаграфій і перыядычных выданняў 1921–1939 гадоў, у якіх адлюстраваны падзеі, звязаныя з падзелам і ўз’яднаннем Усходняй і Заходняй Беларусі. Многія з

Беларусі амаль не стваралася прадпрыемстваў, гэта быў аграрны рэгіён, пры тым 80 працэнтаў беларусаў не мелі ўласнай зямлі, не маглі яе набыць з-за высокіх коштаў. Сялян у Польшчы імкнуліся асіміліраваць, іх перасялялі на іншыя тэрыторыі. Зачыняліся навучальныя ўстановы, да 1939 года ніводнай беларускай школы ўжо не было”, – расказаў падчас адкрыцця выстаўкі Уладзімір Ліхадзедаў.

Даследчык прапануе наведвальнікам разгледзець унікальныя дакументы і на падставе гэтых крыніц самім параўнаць, як жылося беларусам на розных баках мяжы, зрабіць высновы аб тым, якую ролю адыграла Уз’яднанне Беларусі ў 1939 годдзе.

У нацыянальным гістарычным музеі на выстаўцы можна пабачыць таксама і рэчы з гісторыяй – друкарскія станкі, арыгінальныя газеты, форму воінаў Чырвонай Арміі, якія ўдзельнічалі ў Вываленчым



іх раней, калі і былі вядомы, дык толькі вузкаму колу даследчыкаў-гісторыкаў. Выстава – цудоўны дапаможнік для наведвальнікаў у вывучэнні непростай гісторыі XX стагоддзя. Праз дакументальныя крыніцы можна паглыбіцца ў час, даведацца якім было палітычнае, сацыяльна-эканамічнае, культурнае развіццё ў Савецкай Беларусі і з якімі праблемамі сутыкаліся беларусы, якія жылі “пад Польшчай”.

“У Савецкай Беларусі была разгорнута індустрыялізацыя, будаваліся заводы, школы, універсітэты, бальніцы, санаторыі, развіваліся аб’екты культуры, кінатэатры, клубы. Усё гэта можна пабачыць на фатаграфіях. У той жа час на тэрыторыі Заходняй

паходзе, асабістыя рэчы аднаго з палітычных дзеячаў – Сяргея Прытыцкага, у тым ліку яго прастрэленую камізэльку. Прадстаўлены тут і матэрыялы аб тым, як прайшлі першыя выбары на тэрыторыі ўз’яднанай Беларусі.

Таксама на аснове матэрыялаў, прадстаўленых у экспазіцыі ў гістарычным музеі і кнізе “Беларусь адзіная”, была падрыхтавана кампактная мабільная выстаўка – на планшэтах. Першымі яе ўбачылі дэпутаты Парламента, у далейшым плануецца, што яна будзе выстаўляцца ва ўстановах адукацыі і культуры.

Яўген **Кручкоў**

Фота Алены Дзязюлі

БЕЛАРУСКА-ТУРКМЕНСКАЕ ЛІТАРАТУРНАЕ ПАБРАЦІМСТВА

Адным з самых папулярных літаратурна-мастацкіх перыядычных выданняў Туркменістана з’яўляецца часопіс “Дунья эдэбіяты” (“Сусветная літаратура”), які выходзіць накладам 10 000 экзэмпляраў ужо больш дзесяці гадоў. Традыцыйна гэта выданне штогод знаёміць туркменскіх чытачоў з творчасцю пісьменнікаў Беларусі – як класікаў, так і сучаснікаў. У апошнія гады на старонках часопіса былі надрукаваны творы народных песняроў Беларусі Якуба Коласа, Янкі Купалы, паэтаў і празаікаў Максіма Танка, Уладзіміра Караткевіча, Алеся Бадака, Віктара Шніпа, Валерыя Казакова. У розны час “Дунья эдэбіяты” змясціў цыкл эсэ пра туркменскіх пісьменнікаў Какалы Бердыева, Керыма Курбаняпесава, Каюма Тангрыкуліева, Какабая Курбанмурадава, Курбана Чоліева і іншых паэтаў і празаікаў Каракумскага краю, аўтарам якіх з’яўляецца Алесь Карлюкевіч.

Сярод туркменскіх перакладчыкаў туркменскай літаратуры – Максат Бяшымаў, Набаткулі Рэджэпаў, Камек Куліеў, Аннамухамед Кіршэн, Джумагельды Мулкіеў і іншыя. А ў пятым нумары “Дунья эдэбіяты”, які толькі што пабачыў свет (часопіс выдаецца адзін раз на два месяцы), надрукавана падборка вершаў Людмілы Рублеўскай, рэдактара аддзела культуры газеты “Звязда”. Шэсць вершаў вядомага ў Беларусі і за яе межамі творцы пераклаў на мову Махтумкулі Джумагельды Мулкіеў. З просьбай пракаменціраваць сённяшні стан беларуска-туркменскіх літаратурных сувязяў мы звярнуліся да перакладчыка.

– Мне ў свой час прыемна было вучыцца ў Літаратурным інстытуце імя А. М. Горкага ў Маскве з прадстаўнікамі розных народаў Саветаў Саюза, – гаворыць Джумагельды Мулкіеў. – Быў у складзе нашай групы і беларускі юнак. Менавіта ў той час, у 1980-я гады, я адкрываў для сябе беларускую літаратуру. Найперш – прозу народнага пісьменніка Беларусі Васіля Быкава, творы якога перачытваю і зараз. І, прызнацца, тады я і ўявіць не мог, што маё знаёмства з беларускай літаратурай будзе даволі шчыльным, што стану перакладаць творы беларускіх паэтаў і празаікаў. І ўжо зусім немагчыма было паверыць, што і мяне будуць друкаваць у “Літаратуры і мастацтве”, у часопісе “Полымя”, што я буду дзяліцца з беларускім чытачом сваімі ўражаннямі пра творчасць Васіля Быкава, іншых пісьменнікаў. Ведаю, што зараз у Мінску на беларускай мове рыхтуецца да выдання мая кніга з раманам “Джума” і шэрагам апавяданняў. Вялікі дзякуй за гэта! З нецярпеннем чакаю ажыццяўлення гэтай задумы! Беларускаю літаратуру сёння заўважаюць розныя туркменскія перакладчыкі. Мы не раз гутарылі пра стан гэтай працы з Агагельды Аланазаравым, Атаджанам Таганам, чые кнігі ў перакладзе на беларускую мову былі выдадзены ў Мінску. Сёння з беларускімі паэтамі, празаікамі кантактуюць Бягуль Анабаева, Максат Бяшымаў, іншыя туркменскія перакладчыкі. Беларуская тэма не сыходзіць са старонак газеты “Эдэбіят ве сунгат” (“Літаратура і мастацтва”), не так даўно ў звязку з юбілеем Вялікага Фрагі ў адным з нумароў нашага пісьменніцкага штотыднёвіка згадвалі Алега Лойку як перакладчыка Махтумкулі. Спадзяюся, што ў бліжэйшы час будуць рэалізаваны і іншыя ініцыятывы сапраўднага беларуска-туркменскага літаратурнага пабрацімства.

Кастусь **Ладуцька**

МЕДАЛЯМІ БАГДАНОВІЧА ЎЗНАГАРОДЖАНЫ КІТАЙСКІЯ ПЕРАКЛАДЧЫКІ

Прафесара Нанькайскага ўніверсітэта Гу Юя і прафесара Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў Хань Сяое ўжо добра ведаюць у творчым асяроддзі беларускіх майстроў прыгожага пісьменства. Дзякуючы намаганням Хань Сяое ў Пекіне выдадзена калектыўная кніга твораў беларускіх паэтаў і празаікаў, а таксама прафесар пераклаў на кітайскую мову “Тры талеры” Андрэя Федарэнкі, зборнік прозы і паэзіі Алеся Бадака.



– Цяпер я працую над перакладам калектыўнага зборніка прозы “Іголка ў квадраце”, куды ўвайшлі апавяданні пісьменнікаў Беларусі, якія пішуць на рускай мове, – расказаў Хань Сяое. – Асаблівую асалоду атрымаў ад знаёмства з прозай Алега Ждана, Алены Паповай, Сяргея Трахімёнкі, іншых аўтараў кнігі, якая пабачыла свет у Мінску ў праекце Саюза пісьменнікаў Беларусі і выдавецтва “Аверсэв” – “Сучасная беларуская літаратура”. Ведаю, што ўсяго ў серыі выйшла ўжо дзесяць тамоў. Некаторыя з іх ёсць у бібліятэцы Цэнтра даследаванняў Беларусі Другога Пекінскага ўніверсітэта замежных моў.

Што да перакладчыка Гу Юя, то ім неверагодна шмат зроблена па прадстаўленні беларускай паэзіі на кітайскай мове. Найперш – паэзіі класікаў беларускай літаратуры Янкі Купалы, Якуба Коласа, Максіма Танка, Максіма Багдановіча.

Мікола **Берлеж**

ЦАГЛІНКІ ГІСТОРЫІ

Археалагі дапаўняюць летапісцаў

Дзякуючы археалагічным даследаванням адкрываюцца новыя старонкі гісторыі, здабываюцца раней невядомыя звесткі пра матэрыяльную культуру, сацыяльнае і палітычнае жыццё на беларускіх землях. Як паведаміў дырэктар Інстытута гісторыі Нацыянальнай акадэміі навук Вадзім Лакіза, сёння работы вядуцца ў рамках дзяржаўнай праграмы навуковых даследаванняў на 2021 – 2025 гады “Грамадства і гуманітарная бяспека беларускай дзяржавы” і Канцэпцыі нацыянальных археалагічных праектаў. У апошнюю ўключаны даследаванні найбольш значных археалагічных помнікаў і памятных месцаў, звязаных з гістарычнымі падзеямі. Атрыманы падчас іх даныя важныя для асэнсавання гісторыка-культурных з’яў папярэдніх эпох, могуць быць выкарыстаны ў турыстычнай і культурнай сферах.

АРТЭФАКТЫ СТАРАЖЫТНАГА ГОРАДА

Сярод праектаў, уключаных у Канцэпцыю нацыянальных археалагічных праектаў, – падрыхтоўка і складанне археалагічнай карты Беларусі. Гэту справу плануецца правесці да 2030 года. У рамках яе запланаваны і міні-праект па стварэнні археалагічнай карты Мінска.

Таксама гісторыкі плануюць зрабіць карту, на якую будуць нанесены гарадзішчы Беларусі. З аднаго боку, гэта будзе спрыяць захаванню археалагічнай спадчыны. Будуць пазначаны ахоўныя зоны, падчас будоўляў і добраўпарадкавання такіх тэрыторый неабходна будзе праводзіць археалагічную экспэртызу. З другога боку, карта паслужыць пры распрацоўцы турыстычных маршрутаў. Дарэчы, сёння ўжо многія з гарадзішчаў задзейнічаны ў турыстычнай галіне. На іх устанаўліваюцца інфармацыйныя шыльды, праводзяцца даследаванні. Наперадзе вялікая работа па інвентарызацыі, нанясенні на карту і падрыхтоўцы гістарычных даведак.

Адным з самых важных аб’ектаў стаў археалагічны комплекс на рацэ Менцы. Маштабныя раскопкі на ім вядуцца ўжо не першы год. Яны ўжо сталі агульным нацыянальным праектам, да даследаванняў далучыліся будучыя гісторыкі з ВНУ ўсіх абласцей Беларусі, а таксама студэнты іншых

навуковых устаноў, у тым ліку Ваеннай акадэміі, БДУІР, БДЭУ, Акадэміі кіравання пры Прэзідэнце. Прыязджалі “пакапацца” ў гісторыі Мінска і прадстаўнікі грамадскіх арганізацый і буйных прадпрыемстваў.

Раскопкі, якія вядуцца на месцы старажытных гарадоў, дазваляюць даследчыкам супастаўляць летапісныя падзеі з тымі фактамі, якія адкрываюцца дзякуючы знойдзеным у зямлі артэфактам і аб’ектам. Так, нядаўна на Менцы быў знойдзены ўнікальны артэфакт – сякера скандынаўскага паходжання, зафіксаваная ў пласце пажару. Такая знаходка “падыходзіць” пад першую летапісную ўзгадку Мінска. Сучасныя даследаванні нарэшце спыняць спрэчкі, якія вядуцца сярод даследчыкаў дзесяцігоддзямі пра месца знаходжання старажытнага горада: побач з якой з рэк – Менкай ці Нямігай. “Нашы прадстаўленні пра археалагічны комплекс на Менцы выраслі ў параўнанні з тымі, што былі 20 гадоў таму, – заўважыў загадчык сектарам археалогіі Інстытута гісторыі Аляксей Аўласовіч. – Там зафіксаваны ўнікальныя драўляныя ўнутрывалныя збудаванні, якіх ва ўсходняй Еўропе амаль не захавалася. Цяпер праводзіцца комплекс навуковых метадаў, дэндрахраналагічны аналіз, якія паказваюць, што гэтыя буйныя драўляныя збудаванні былі зроблены ў 990-х гадах. Уражвае і ўнікальная захаванасць гэтых знаходак”. Сёння вырашаецца пытанне з кансервацыяй элементаў драўляных канструкцый, знойдзеных падчас раскопак на Менцы. У далейшым плануецца іх прадставіць у новым будынку Нацыянальнага гістарычнага музея. Таксама падчас раскопак на Менцы знойдзены высакатасныя рэчы, сярод якіх – паясныя наборы прадстаўнікоў дружыннага салоўя, княжыскія клеймы – трохзубцы князя Ізяслава. Вучоныя мяркуюць, што Менка была адной з яго рэзідэнцый, альбо там знаходзілася княжаская адміністрацыя Ізяслава. Такім чынам артэфакты далі новы матэрыял, важны для вывучэння працэсаў, звязаных з ўтварэннем гарадоў.

Археалагі на Менцы знайшлі пісала, засцёжкі ад кніг. Гэта сведчыць, што ў першай палове XI стагоддзя там жыло насельніцтва, якое ўмела пісаць і

чытаць. Пра статус гаспадароў, якія жылі ў гэтым старажытным горадзе, сведчаць і такія артэфакты, як скандынаўская фібула, вялікая колькасць імпортных рэчаў, сярод іх – сірыйскае шкло, візантыйскія амфары.

“Мы заўсёды гаворым аб практычным выкарыстанні археалагічных прадметаў і аб’ектаў: у музейнай галіне, у турызме”, – заўважыў Вадзім Лакіза. Цяпер вырашаецца пытанне аб музейфікацыі археалагічнага комплексу на Менцы. У міністэрстве культуры створана рабочая група пад кіраўніцтвам першага намесніка Валерыя Грамады. У яе ўключаны спецыялісты Інстытута гісторыі, праекціроўшчыкі з “Брэстпраектрэстаўрацыі”, музейныя работнікі, якія будуць распрацоўваць канцэпцыю музейфікацыі комплексу на Менцы. Гэта можа быць запаведнік, гісторыка-культурны парк, музей пад адкрытым небам. Вопыт стварэння падобных аб’ектаў ужо маецца. Напрыклад, створаны музейны комплекс у Мсціслаўі, археалагічны музей пад адкрытым небам – у Белавежскай пушчы.

“Праекты, якія выяўляюцца, як цаглінка кладуцца ў сцяну гісторыі. Сёння мы займаемся падрыхтоўкай фундаментальнай працы “Гісторыя Беларусі”.



■ Кіраўнік раскопак на Менцы Андрэй Вайцяховіч

Першы і другі тамы без археолагаў немагчымыя, – адзначыў Вадзім Лакіза. – Так, першы том будзе знаёміць з перыядам ад каменнага веку да жалезнага, у яго ўвойдуць даныя, у тым ліку атрыманыя на аснове раскопак і найноўшых даследаванняў. Другі том расказвае пра першыя

гістарычныя формы дзяржаўнасці. Письмовыя крыніцы будуць дапаўняцца археалагічнымі матэрыяламі, якія былі знойдзены ў выніку археалагічных даследаванняў у такіх старажытных гарадах, як Полацк, Тураў, Гродна, Віцебск, Пінск і іншых”.



ЧАС ПЕРАПІСВАЦЬ ПАДРУЧНІКІ

У Канцэпцыю нацыянальных археалагічных праектаў увайшоў помнік эпохі палеаліта каля вёскі Агова Іванаўскага раёна Брэсцкай вобласці. Сёлета на Іванаўшчыне прайшоў міжнародны круглы стол, дзе былі прадстаўлены выяўленыя матэрыялы. Да іх вывучэння да беларускіх даследчыкаў далучыліся расійскія калегі. Знаходкі тут сенсацыйныя. Яны мяняюць ўяўленне аб першапачатковым засяленні тэрыторыі Беларусі. Калі першыя матэрыялы, знойдзеныя на гэтым аб’екце, сведчылі, што тэрыторыя абжывалася не менш 250 тысяч гадоў таму, далейшыя матэрыялы датаваліся ўжо ў 300–400 тысяч гадоў. Вучоныя заўважылі, што ўжо наспеў час для перапісвання падручнікаў па гісторыі, у якіх гаварылася, што першыя пасяленні былі ў Юравічах і Бердыжы. Цяпер рыхтуюцца матэрыялы да ўключэння архітэктурнага помніка вёскі Агова ў спіс гісторыка-матэрыяльнай спадчыны. У далейшым гэтыя мясціны павінны быць задзейнічаны ў турыстычнай галіне.

Яшчэ адзін аб’ект, перспектывы для стварэння музейнага комплексу – Краснасельскія здабываючыя крэмень шахты. Так, самыя старажытныя шахцёры з’явіліся на Беларусі ў 4-м тысячагоддзі да нашай эры.

У Магілёўскай вобласці праводзіцца даследаванне кургання могільніка другой паловы X стагоддзя

каля вёскі Азёры Круглянскага раёна. Гэта адзін з буйнейшых па памерах і высаце курганоў на тэрыторыі Беларусі. Вышыня насыпу – 6 метраў, а яго дыяметр – 30.

Сапраўдным падарункам для археолагаў сталі раскопкі пасялення каля вёскі Какорыца Драгічынскага раёна. Месца надвычай багатае на знаходкі – гэта тысячы артэфектаў.

“МОКРЫЯ” ДАСЛЕДАВАННІ

У Канцэпцыю нацыянальных археалагічных праектаў увайшло і даследаванне месца пераправы арміі Напалеона праз Бярэзіну ў лістападзе 1812 года

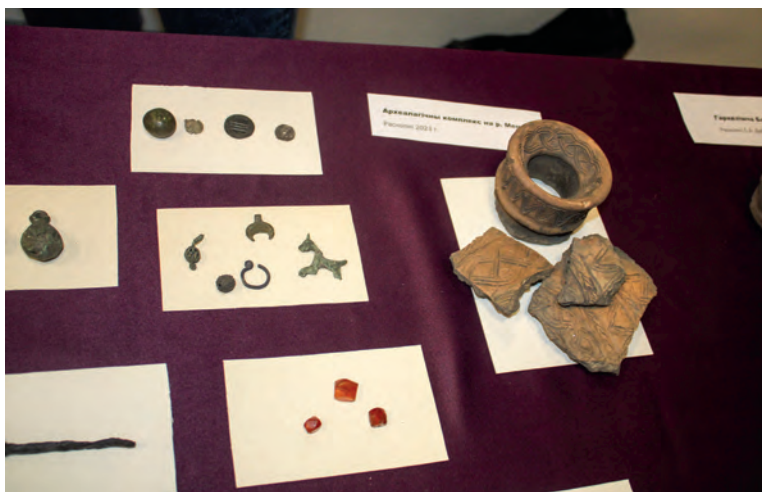
Работы тут хопіць не аднаму пакаленню даследчыкаў. Пры ўскрыцці вялікіх плошчаў можна агаліць цалкам неагатычную вёску. Але трэба яшчэ вырашаць пытанні з кансервацыяй. Узнятыя з-пад вады драўляныя рэчы могуць вельмі хутка разбурацца. Даследчыкі падзяліліся ідэяй аб стварэнні ўнікальнага падводнага музея. Тое, што ўжо сёння можна пабачаць падчас вывучэння гэтай тэрыторыі з аквалангам, сапраўды ўражае. Напрыклад, сёлета даследчыкі натрапілі на рэшткі цыновак эпохі неаліта – дыванкоў, зробленых з сасновых лучын. Ужо прынята рашэнне аб супрацоўніцтве з расійскімі калегамі з Санкт-Пецярбурга адносна кансервацыі некаторых драўляных артэфектаў.

Перспектыўны комплекс для вывучэння, а ў далейшым і прыцягнення турыстаў – Возера Сялява і востраў на ім. Тут знойдзены матэрыялы ад каменнага веку да жалезнага. На востраве знаходзіцца адзін са старажытнейшых паграбальных комплексаў эпохі мезаліту, артэфекты сведчаць і пра тое, што раней тут жылі людзі. Спачатку комплекс лічылі астраўным пасяленнем, але новыя, падводныя даследаванні, прымусілі ў гэтым сумнявацца. На сёння ўжо вядома, што ў каменным і жалезным вяках тэрыторыя пасялення была як мінімум у два разы большая, бо на працягласці 35 метраў ад берага трапляюцца цікавыя матэрыялы жалезнага веку (рэшткі шлакаў, доменных печаў, руды). А пад імі



каля вёскі Студзёнка. Тут праводзіцца падводныя археалагічныя даследаванні.

Таксама даследаванні з аквалангам вядуцца ў раёне гарадзішча Кардон. “Мокрыя” работы ідуць і на Крывінскім гарфяніку. “Гэта адзін з самых унікальных помнікаў не толькі на тэрыторыі Беларусі, але і Еўропы, – затарфаванае пасяленне. Пабудовы ляжаць пад пластом торфу, туды не трапляе кісларод, бактэрыі. Артэфекты з дрэва захоўваюцца ідэальна”, – заўважыў навуковы супрацоўнік Інстытута гісторыі Сяргей Ліневіч. Сёлета, напрыклад, была знойдзена драўляная лыжка – самая старажытная на тэрыторыі Беларусі, перыяду каменнага часу. Даследчыкі знайшлі пад вадой і драўляныя наканечнікі стралы і першы ў Беларусі пласціначны грыб – узростам у 4, 5 тысячы гадоў. Падводныя даследаванні патрабуюць шмат часу. За год ўскрываецца каля 20 сантыметраў пасялення, якое з цягам часу апынулася пад вадой.



артэфекты каменнага веку – пацеркі, фрагменты керамікі. На наступны год плануецца зайсці яшчэ далей. Відаць, калі вада максімальна адступала, за ёй прасоўваліся людзі. Археалагічны патэнцыял толькі пачынае раскрывацца і комплекс на возеры Сялява можа стаць жамчужынай Крупскага раёна, тым больш што гэтае месца часта наведваюць турысты.

Таццяна **Бузіноўская**
Фота Алены Дзядзюлі

У ЭЛІСЦЕ ПАМЯТАЮЦЬ ПРА БЕЛАРУСКАГА ПАРТЫЗАНА



У Калмыкіі – вядомы паэт,
у Беларусі – легендарны партызан

Рыма Ханінава – доктар філагічных навук, вядучы навуковы супрацоўнік, загадчык аддзела фальклору і літаратуры Калмыцкага Навуковага Цэнтра Расійскай Акадэміі навук, член Саюза пісьменнікаў Расіі. Літаратуразнаўца, паэт, перакладчык, прэзаік, яна вельмі шмат робіць для развіцця беларуска-калмыцкіх літаратур-

ных сувязяў, для ўшанавання памяці пра бацьку – калмыцкага паэта Міхаіла Хонінава, які ў Вялікую Айчынную вайну партызаніў у Беларусі, дзе на Магілёўшчыне і Міншчыне яго ведалі як партызанскага разведчыка “Мішу Чорнага”. Міхаіл Ванькаевіч Хонінаў быў узнагароджаны ордэнам Чырвонага Сцяга. У Беразіно ёсць вуліца яго імя. А намаганнямі дачкі партызана ў гэтым райцэнтры ўсталявана і мемарыяльная дошка ў гонар народнага мсціўца.

Рыма Ханінава – часты госць у Беларусі, удзельнічала ў Міжнародным сімпозіуме літаратараў “Пісьменнік і час” у Мінску ў 2017 годзе. Аўтар многіх мастацкіх і літаратуразнаўчых публікацый, звязаных з Беларуссю. Сёлета расійскую пісьменніцу і добрага сябра і прапагандыста беларускай літаратуры прынялі ў Саюз пісьменнікаў Беларусі. Новая кніга, што пабачыла свет у Элісце, дзякуючы намаганням Рымы Міхайлаўны, – “Ландшафт дружбы”. Аўтары – Міхаіл Хонінаў і Рыма Ханінава. Выданне прысвечана 105-годдзю з дня нараджэння Міхаіла Хонінава – Мішы Чорнага і 80-годдзю вызвалення Беларусі ад нямецка-фашысцкіх захопнікаў. На старонках грунтоўнага выдання – вершы М. Хонінава, прысвечаныя Беларусі. Як на рускай мове, так і ў перакладах на беларускую. Дарэчы, яшчэ пры жыцці калмыцкага паэта ў Мінску пабачылі свет дзве яго вершаваныя кнігі. Перакладчыкамі твораў паэта, шчыра ўлюбёнага ў Беларусь, выступілі Максім Танк, Аляксей Пысін, Юрась Свірка, Рыгор Барадулін, Антон Бялевіч, Генадзь Кляўко, Мікола Аўрамчык... Творы М. Хонінава перакладаюць на беларускую мову і цяпер. Яны часта з’яўляюцца на старонках перыядычных літаратурна-мастацкіх выданняў. Сярод тых, хто сёння звярнуўся да пераўвасаблення спадчыны калмыцкага паэта, прэзаіка, – Таццяна Сівец, Рагнед Малахоўскі, Адам Шостак, Алесь Карлюкевіч. Магчыма, з часам у Мінску з’явіцца яшчэ адна кніга партызанскага паэта – “Званы Хатыні”, паэма, якая не ўвайшла ў ранейшыя беларускія кнігі М. Хонінава. Перакладчыкі гэтай паэмы – Рагнед Малахоўскі, Адам Шостак. Яна ўжо друкавалася ў часопісе “Полымя”, а таксама ў калектыўным зборніку твораў, прысвечаных Хатыні.

У кнізе “Ландшафт дружбы”, якая, несумненна, павінна зацікавіць беларускага чытача, – мноства дакументальных, біяграфічных, гісторыка-літаратурных матэрыялаў. Таксама – пераклады беларускай паэзіі на калмыцкую мову, здзейсненыя Рымай Ханінавай.

Сяргей Шычко

“ЛІМ” ПРАЦЯГВАЕ ТВОРЧУЮ ДЫПЛАМАТЫЮ

Газета творчай інтэлігенцыі краіны па-ранейшаму надае ўвагу да мастацкага перакладу. Чарговы выпуск традыцыйнага праекта “Дыпламатыя перакладу” прысвечаны мастацкаму свету іншых народаў

Пад назвай “Надзеяй свеціцца прасцяг” знайшлося месца творам паэтаў Індыі, Арменіі і Расійскай Федэрацыі.

Падборку вершаў лаўрэата Нобелеўскай прэміі ў галіне літаратуры Рабіндраната Тагора (1861–1941) з шасці твораў пераклалі Генадзь Аўласенка і Навум Гальпяровіч. Нагадаем, што прачытанне творчасці класіка бенгальскай літаратуры, аўтара гімнаў Індыі і Бангладэш пачалося ў Беларусі яшчэ ў 1920-я гады. Тады Якуб Колас надрукаваў у часопісе “Полымя рэвалюцыі” свае пераклады твораў класіка сусветнай літаратуры. “У гэтым сонечным свеце я не хачу паміраць,/Вечна жыць бы жадаў у гэтых зялёных лясах,/Там, дзе зверху вясёлкі дзіўным агнём гараць,/Там, дзе сэрцайкі б’юцца, дзе кветкі поўніць раса...” (“Жыццё”, пераклад Генадзя Аўласенкі). Тры вершы армянскага класіка Аветыка Ісаакяна (1875–1957) гучаць са старонак “Літаратуры і мастацтва” у перакладах Навума Гальпяровіча. “Я прыпадобіў сэрца небу,/Бо скрозь маўклівы зорак рай/Яно лампадаю жывой/Нам свеціць, бо ў ім ёсць патрэба...” Сярод беларускіх перакладчыкаў Аветыка Ісаакяна ў XX стагоддзі – вядомыя беларускія мастакі слова ранейшых пакаленняў: Эдуард Валасевіч, Мікола Аўрамчык, Рыгор Барадулін і інш.

Падборку вершаў дагестанскай паэтэсы (Расійская Федэрацыя) Сувайнат Ісрафілавай (нарадзілася ў 1965 годзе; жыве ў Махачкале) пераклала Настасся Нарэйка, маладая беларуская паэтэса з Камянца, якая ўсё часцей звяртаецца да працы над перакладамі паэтычных твораў калег з постсавецкай прасторы. Шчаслівы лёс “Дыпламатыі перакладу” прадаўжаецца – і адпаведна доўжацца стасункі беларускай літаратуры з іншымі нацыянальнымі літаратурамі народаў свету.

Кастусь Ладуцька

КРЫНІЦА ДУХОЎНАСЦІ,

альбо Як развіваецца рэлігійны турызм

Летась пастановай Міністэрства спорту і турызму створана адзіная класіфікацыя відаў турызму. Паводле яе вызначана трынаццаць яго відаў. Сёлета прынята кожны месяц рабіць тэматычным. Прэс-канферэнцыі, семінары, круглыя сталы, экскурсіі, выстаўкі, якія штомесяц прысвечаны пэўнаму турыстычнаму кірунку, праводзяцца з мэтай стымуляцыі развіцця галіны, прыцягнення ўвагі да турыстычнага патэнцыялу як унутры краіны, так і збоку замежнай аўдыторыі.

Кастрычнік быў абвешчаны месяцам рэлігійнага турызму. Цікава, да гэтага кірунку з кожным годам расце. Толькі за мінулы год праведзена больш за сем тысяч экскурсій, распрацавана і абноўлена каля 1300 экскурсійных маршрутаў. Расце патрабаванне і да спецыялістаў, якія знаёмяць турыстаў са святынямі, культурнымі і духоўнымі традыцыямі. Як паведаміла намеснік дырэктара Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызме Ганна Вашчынчук, абнаўляюцца кантрольныя тэксты экскурсій і тэхналагічных карт. Нацыянальным агенцтвам падрыхтаваны дапаможнік “Метадычныя рэкамендацыі па распрацоўцы і правядзенні экскурсій па рэлігійных аб’ектах”. І хоць ён прызначаны ў першую чаргу для экскурсаводаў і гідаў-перакладчыкаў, тым не менш можа будзе карысным і для простых турыстаў. З электроннай версіі дапаможніка можна пазнаёміцца на сайце Нацыянальнага агенцтва па турызме. Тут падаецца гісторыя развіцця канфесій на тэрыторыі Беларусі і іх стан на сучасным этапе, расказваецца пра структуру храмаў. Не менш важна і тое, што ў дапаможніку падаюцца правілы паводзін на рэлігійных аб’ектах.

Штогод праводзіцца турыстычны конкурс “Пазнай Беларусь”, і сярод яго намінацый, вядомаж, ёсць і такая як “аб’ект рэлігійнага турызму”. Летась пераможцам у ёй быў прызнаны Свята-Успенскі Жыровіцкі мужчынскі манастыр.

Рэлігійны турызм актыўна развіваецца, ён прыцягвае не толькі звычайных падарожнікаў, але і паломнікаў. Арганізацыяй паломніцкіх паездак сёння займаюцца

не толькі спецыяльныя службы, створаныя пры манастырах і прыходах, але і турыстычныя арганізацыі. Пакланіцца святыням разам з вернікамі едуць і падарожнікі, якія хочуць больш даведацца і пра духоўнае жыццё, і пра культурныя здабыткі, адчуць атмасферу рэлігійнага свята. Самы яскравы прыклад таму – Будслаўскі фэст, на які можа прыезджаць да 30 тысяч пілігрымаў з розных куткоў свету. У 2018 годзе свята ў гонар ушанавання цудатворнага абраза Маці Божай Будслаўскай, які захоўваецца ў касцёле Унебаўзяцця Найсвяцейшай Дзевы Марыі ў вёсцы Будслаў Мядзельскага раёна Мінскай вобласці, было ўключана ў спіс нематэрыяльнай культурнай спадчыны ЮНЕСКА.

Сёння ў турыстычныя маршруты ўнесена 1,4 тысячы рэлігійных аб’ектаў. 400 з іх знаходзяцца ў Брэсцкай вобласці, 50 – у Гомельскай, 460 – у Гродзенскай, 123 – у Мінскай, 69 – у Магілёўскай і 20 – у сталіцы.

“Наша шматнацыянальная і шматканфесійная структура – тое, што адрознівае беларускі народ ад іншых. Культавыя помнікі ў сваёй сукупнасці матэрыяльна ўвасабляюць такую адрозную рысу беларусаў, як талерантнасць”, – заўважыў намеснік Упаўнаважанага па справах рэлігій і нацыянальнасцяў Сяргей Герасіменя падчас сустрэчы ў Нацыянальным прэс-цэнтры Рэспублікі Беларусь. Сапраўды, рэлігійны турызм дазваляе пазнаёміцца з культурнай спадчынай, заўважыць, што спрадвечу на нашых землях прадстаўнікі розных канфесій жывуць ў міры і згодзе. На плошчах многіх беларускіх гарадоў можна пабачыць, як побач стаяць цэрквы, касцёлы, сінагогі, мячэці. Адным з такіх месцаў стала Іўе, тут нават пастаўлены помнік чатыром канфесіям і працуе адзіны ў Беларусі Музей нацыянальных культур, дзе можна больш даведацца пра культурную і духоўную спадчыну мясцовых жыхароў, якія, хоць і адрозніваліся веравызнаннем і нацыянальнасцю, паважалі адзін аднаго, шмат рабілі для росквіту зямлі, дзе жылі.

Геапалітычнае становішча Беларусі, на тэрыторыі якой спалучаліся розныя культуры, ідэалогіі, рэлігіі,

судзейнічала фарміраванню асаблівага асяроддзя, стварэнню ўнікальнай прасторы. Гэта заўважаюць турысты з Расіі, якія знаёмяцца з аб'ектамі рэлігійнага турызму, прычым іх цікавяць не толькі праваслаўныя і каталіцкія храмы, але і сінагогі і мячэці.

“Калі ў праграме экскурсіі па Беларусі ёсць мячэць – гэта выклікае дадатковую цікавасць. Такія экскурсіі

здольны ўбіраць перадузятасць аб мусульманах, раскаваць пра іх месца і ролю ў жыцці Беларусі”, – заўважыў старшыня Савета імамаў Мусульманскага рэлігійнага аб'яднання ў Рэспубліцы Беларусь Дзмітрый Радкевіч. Ён нагадаў, што мусульманская канфесія хоць і невялікая, але традыцыйная для Беларусі, бо татары на яе землях жывуць ужо больш 600 гадоў. Сярод турыстаў з Расіі ёсць як мусульмане, так і праваслаўныя. Напрыклад, у Башкарстане працуе праграма, у рамках якой для сталых людзей арганізуюцца паездкі ў “краіну пад белымі крыламі”. Адзін з пунктаў, які ўключаны ў іх экскурсійную

Лізавета Іопад



наведаць таксама Смілавічы, вядомыя не толькі як месца пражывання беларускіх татар, але і мясціны, дзе нарадзіліся мастакі Хаім Суцін і Шрага Царфін, якія праславіліся ў Парыжы. Таксама тут натхняўся кампазітар Станіслаў Манюшка. У Смілавічах створаны цікавыя музеі, прысвечаныя гэтым творцам.

Алена Дзязюля



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праграму, – наведванне Мінскай саборнай мячэці. Гэты рэлігійны аб'ект сёння надзвычай запатрабаваны, сюды прыязджаюць не толькі групы турыстаў, але і афіцыйныя дэлегацыі. У турыстычныя маршруты ўключана шэсць мячэцяў, але Дзмітрый Радкевіч упэўнены, што аб'ектамі рэлігійнага турызму маглі б стаць і мусульманскія могілкі – па Беларусі іх захавалася больш трох дзесяткаў. У Лоўчыцах каля Навагрудка ёсць нават магіла мясцовага святога. Дзмітрый Радкевіч параіў

Старшыня Аб'яднання іўдзейскіх рэлігійных абшчын у Беларусі Уладзімір Татарнікаў раскаваць, што яўрэі на беларускіх землях пачалі сяліцца з XIII стагоддзя, пра гэта сведчаць надпісы на магільных камянях. Да Вялікай Айчыннай вайны яўрэйскае насельніцтва на беларускіх землях паступова павялічвалася, у некаторых гарадах і мястэчках яно складала 50–70 працэнтаў. У гады вайны нямецка-фашысцкія захопнікі масава знішчалі яўрэйў па расавай прыналежнасці, па ўсёй Беларусі ствараліся гета, у той жа

час яўрэі разам з беларусамі змагаліся за вызваленне. Даведацца пра гісторыю, культуру, традыцыі беларускіх яўрэяў можна таксама ў рамках рэлігійнага турызму. Напрыклад, падчас візіту ў Бабруйск варта завітаць на экскурсію ў мясцовую сінагогу, тут нават частуюць традыцыйнымі яўрэйскімі стравамі і праводзяць майстар-класы. Запатрабаваны ў рэлігійным турызме сёння сінагогі ў Гродне, Віцебску, Полацку, Брэсце, Валожыне.

На наступны год прыпадаюць знакавыя даты: 900 гадоў найстарэйшаму жаночаму Спаса-Ефрасінеўскаму манастыру ў Полацку і 800 гадоў найстарэйшаму з дзеючых Лаўрышаўскаму мужчынскаму манастыру. Католікі будуць адзначаць стагоддзе Пінскай епархіі. Юбілейныя даты,



photo: by

Алена Дзязюля



безумоўна, не застануцца па-за ўвагі як вернікаў, так і работнікаў турыстычнай галіны.

Старшыня Сінаідальнага аддзела Беларускай права-слаўнай царквы, пратаірэі Павел Сярдзюк заўважыў, што Спаса-Ефрасінеўскі храм валодае найвялікшай плошчай захаваных сярэднявечных фрэсак, што стала магчымым у тым ліку і дзякуючы супрацоўніцтву царквы, дзяржавы і культурнай супольнасці, рэстаўратараў. Ацец Павел заўважыў, што рэлігійны

турызм дазваляе прывіваць традыцыйныя каштоўнасці, што для многіх падарожнікаў святыя абіцелі з'яўляюцца крыніцамі духоўнасці, дзе яны могуць супакоіцца і набрацца сіл, якіх не хапае ў паўсядзённым жыцці. Часам экскурсія ў храм адкрывае людзям шлях да веры.

Сёння пры многіх цэрквах створаны музеі, дзе можна даведацца пра гісторыю і храмаў, і мясцін, на якіх яны знаходзяцца. Падчас рэлігійных экскурсій турысты даведваюцца пра чудатворныя абразы, крыніцы з гаючай вадой, узнікаюцца на званніцы, з якіх адкрываюцца прыгожыя віды на мясцовасць, удзельнічаюць ва ўрачыстасцях, як, напрыклад, у Слаўгарадзе на Блакітнай крыніцы. Турысты могуць паслухаць канцэрты арганнай музыкі, як, напрыклад, у лютэранскай кірхе Святога Іаана ў Гродне, дарэчы, адзіным у Беларусі дзеючым лютэранскім храме. Падчас вандроўкі ў Жыровіцкі манастыр можна не толькі замовіць экскурсію, але і набраць вады ў святых крыніцах, пагуляць па "Эдэмскім" садзе. У 2010 годзе манастыру былі перададзены землі былой сядзібы Солтана, якая знаходзілася ў запустелі. Сіламі манахаў і мясцовых жыхароў быў расчышчаны стары яблыневы сад, ствараецца падвор'е, у планах – узвядзенне вялікай колькасці прасторных вальераў з дзікімі жывёламі.

Сярод мясцін, якія варта наведаць, – Барыса-Глебская (Каложская царква ў Гродне), Свята-Мікольскі жаночы манастыр у Магілёве, культавыя збудаванні абарончага тыпу – касцёл Святога Іаана Хрысціцеля ў вёсцы Камаі Пастаўскага раёна, царква-крэпасць Свята-Раства Божай Маці ў вёсцы Мураванка Шчучынскага раёна, царква Святога Міхаіла ў вёсцы Сынкавічы Зэльвенскага раёна, драўляныя цэрквы Палесся.

Таццяна Бузіноўская



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